

# Prineville State Parks Master Plan Development Proposal Summary

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2004



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## Background



The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) provides recreation management, protection, administration, and maintenance on Reclamation lands surrounding Prineville Reservoir. OPRD is responsible for managing recreation at Prineville Reservoir through a lease agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. This lease agreement is to expire in 2037. This master plan will ensure that OPRD can make rational long-term investments for needed rehabilitation and facility development projects.

This RMP/master plan for Prineville Reservoir has been formulated through a master planning process consistent to the process described under OAR 736 Division 18 and OAR 66 Division 34. This planning process was imbedded in the federal RMP and Environmental Assessment procedures. The master planning process includes procedures for coordinating with affected local governments to obtain local land use approval of the master plan.

A detailed natural resource inventory and assessment was used to determine the best areas for natural resource protection and for development. As part of the data-gathering process, an inventory of plant communities, wetlands, and protected plant species was conducted in the spring and summer of 2000. The inventory and mapping involved detailed field surveys and vegetation descriptions across the site. The information was collected and analyzed using GIS. This exercise resulted in composite suitability map. This information is available at the OPRD headquarters office.

This document is to be read in conjunction with the Prineville Reservoir Resource Management Plan dated August 2003.

## What is the purpose of this document?

### 1. Clearly identifies proposed development requiring land use review

This document is intended to provide a development proposal summary that will be incorporated into the Crook County Comprehensive Plan. This document will provide a synopsis of the development proposals requiring land use approval as presented in the Prineville Reservoir Resource Management Plan. This document includes an illustrated development concepts for major development areas as well as an accompanying table that describes the development in greater detail.

#### **Development Concepts**

Development Concepts show how to fit needed facilities into the park. These concepts will provide the “blueprint” for the park development over the next 25 years. The development concepts reflect resource constraints, as well as, demand and address goals as determined in the planning process. They reflect appropriate type, size, location and access for the proposed facilities. Illustrating these concepts provides the public and the department a unified vision for the future of the park.

The RMP outlines a plan for developing several high use primitive areas. These undesignated camping and day use areas are often the most difficult to manage by OPRD. Management issues occurring in these areas include health and safety issues to resource management issues. Crowding, poor access for emergency response, and uncontrolled use are common within these areas. Through organized development and supervision of these sites OPRD seeks to provide a quality recreation experience.

#### **Design Parameters**

- Avoid conflicts with existing park uses and facilities
- Provide good access and circulation for vehicles and non-motorized travel within the parks
- Place facilities, roads and trails in a manner that is understandable by the public to find activities they are interested in
- Avoid significant impacts to important natural or cultural resources in or adjacent to the park
- Present an appearance that is harmonious with the setting of the park and the region and the state
- Provide choices for park visitors who may have different desires for park amenities and settings
- Avoid or mitigate conflicts with local services or adjacent uses

- Avoid or mitigate potential impacts on the park by adjacent uses
- Achieve compliance with regulatory requirements include the state land use goals, local comprehensive plans, building codes, resource laws, etc.;
- Provide opportunities for access by visitors with disabilities or different economic or cultural backgrounds.

## 2. Defines OPRD Management Goals and Objectives

The RMP includes a set of goals specific to recreation. These goals correspond with OPRD goals for recreation related development at the reservoir. The proposed development reflects these goals. These goals are listed below.

### *Recreation Goals*

- Provide adequate sites and facilities to support the demand for land-based recreational uses while affording the public a quality recreational experience and consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.
- Provide adequate shoreline and water-based facilities to support the demand for boating and other water-based uses consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.
- Manage the Prineville water surface to accommodate a variety of uses in a safe manner while minimizing conflicts among users.
- Provide appropriate vehicular and non-motorized access to recreation sites at Prineville Reservoir consistent with natural and cultural resource objectives.
- Ensure that appropriate facilities, programs, and signage, and/or an equivalent experience are provided and accessible to persons with disabilities.

## 3. Clarifies Agency Priorities

This document is to help more clearly define OPRD's priorities while providing a general construction schedule. This schedule is subject to funding levels and other statewide priorities. The construction schedule helps define for the reader ORPD's priorities for construction. This schedule is included on the development concept table.

Within the RMP/MP the Table 6.2-1, a column entitled the implementation schedule identifies a tentative timeline for proposed actions outlined including the development proposals. The schedule identified in the table demonstrates OPRD's and Reclamation's commitment to a specific project and a general implementation schedule.

In summary OPRD has placed major development priority for new use areas.

### 1. Powder House Cove Boat Ramp – High Priority

Powder House Cove is a physically small day use area with high use at the western end of the local reservoir just south of Bowman Dam, near the old powder house used to store explosives during dam construction. Use has been increasing due to recent road improvements. Features of this site include a one-lane boat launch, two gravel parking areas, and two vault toilets. Portable toilets and trash cans are installed at the site during the peak use season. The existing boat launch is best characterized as primitive as it has a gravel surface only on the uppermost portions before becoming mostly dirt on the lower portions. Given the popularity of this site, overflow parking commonly occurs on the shoulder of Highway 27, creating a traffic hazard. Boats also launch from numerous locations along the shoreline in the cove.

OPRD has ranked this project as a high priority too alleviate the existing crowding, improve highway access and to provide needed year-round boat access development. This project includes:

#### Phase 1:

1. Build new entrance and boat ramp access road.
2. Construct new boat ramp east of existing ramp.
3. Provide additional truck and trailer parking (75 max.).
4. Close old boat ramp.
5. Construct day use area with separate parking area (20 max.) and trailhead.
6. Construct non-motorized trail - interpretive loop trail to old Powder House and Taylor Butte.
7. New vault toilet(s).
8. Manage for day use only.
9. Work with appropriate agencies to eliminate parking on Hwy 27.

#### Phase 2:

1. Add additional parking for trucks and trailers (45 max).

## **2. State Park North including Antelope Creek Day Use Area –Medium Priority**

To the northwest of the existing campground in a currently undeveloped area OPRD is seeking to develop a new campground and associated day use area. The RMP refers to this area as State Park North, due to its proximity to the existing campground and support facilities, and Antelope Creek Day Use Area. The proposed day use area is presently used as a primitive day use.

OPRD will continue to coordinate with USBR and Crook County on a road plan for the north side of the reservoir. Proposed access points off of Juniper Canyon Road into the park will be coordinated with future development of access points onto private lands adjacent to the USBR boundaries.

OPRD has ranked this project as medium priority because the proposed development would make use of existing facilities and infrastructure primarily due to the site's ideal location near existing roads, park maintenance facilities and the park development.

Proposed development includes:

Develop the Antelope Creek Day Use Area (a new site located west of the State Park and east of Antelope Creek). Provide for the following facilities:

1. Developed day use area with swimming and picnicking.
2. Group day use area with shelter.
3. Non-motorized trailhead and trail connections.
4. Parking (50 maximum).
5. Construct an accessible fishing pier.
6. Provide overflow parking.

## **3. Roberts Bay development beyond basic recreation management – Low Priority**

Roberts Bay East is the most heavily used recreation area on the south shore and is the most popular dispersed recreation area on the reservoir. Features of this site include 12 picnic tables, 4 vault toilets—as well as additional portable toilets during the peak use season—and as many as 50 distinct dispersed campsites and numerous makeshift campsites with user-constructed fire rings. Trash cans are also provided during the peak use season. Twenty of the dispersed sites are on a small peninsula and have

gravel parking spurs and some shade. The remaining sites are scattered throughout the main use area along the western shoreline of Roberts Bay which is interspersed with some juniper trees that provide limited shade. However, much of the use of this site occurs directly on the shoreline and in the areas below the full pool level that are exposed as the summer progresses. Although the area lacks a formal boat launch, the gentle slope of the shoreline and lack of rocks or trees allows visitors to launch from many portions of the site.

Roberts Bay West is a small designated dispersed site at the western end of the Roberts Bay area. Features of this site include an informal gravel/rock boat ramp, three picnic tables, and approximately ten dispersed campsites. Portable toilets are also provided at this site during the peak season and are highly visible from the water, resulting in heavy use from boaters in the area.

To maintain order and initial management over sight of this site phase 1 development may occur earlier and will include the following actions.

1. Create designated use areas for the entire site including designated camping areas.
2. Develop group camps as part of designated use areas including vault toilets.
3. Institute camp host(s).
4. Develop a day use area for picnicking and swimming with parking for up to 50 cars including vault toilets.
5. Develop trails and clear vegetation for emergency helicopter landing pad.
6. Consider vehicular restricted access to Roberts Bay West to encourage increased boat camper use. This will assist in fewer vehicular trips down Salt Creek Road.
7. Restrict all camping to those designated sites to allow for County enforcement of use within restricted areas.

OPRD will not develop phase II for larger more developed campground until the legal access, management and maintenance of Salt Creek Road is established and there is historical data of the use of the improved primitive Roberts Bay camp area. Observations of the issues that arise during the time period during the period of construction for Powder House Cove and the North Side expansion of the existing State Park will provide for possible solutions to the road issues and surrounding land use impacts on BLM and private lands.

Upon resolution of the access implementation Phase 2 camping development at Roberts Bay East by providing for the following facilities:

1. Create designated campsites (50 max.) with water, electricity, and toilet buildings with showers.
2. Develop primitive group camps (5 with 10 sites each) with only centralized water and toilets.
3. Create two group camps with group picnic shelter with water and power.
4. Develop a cabin cluster (15 max.).
5. Provide for an RV dump station.
6. Trails and trail connections.
7. Provide for additional host sites.
8. Create a camp talk area.
9. Build a camper registration building
10. Create a walk-in tent camp area with 20 sites.

PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR STATE PARK  
MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

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## State Wildlife Area (SWA)

	Development Description	Schedule/Priority	Standards/Requirements
<b>Owl Creek</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct up to 15 primitive-designated walk-in or boat-in sites.</li> <li>• Construct non-motorized trail (hiking, biking, equestrian) connections to North Side Primitive Road and BLM property</li> <li>• Camper registration required</li> <li>• Define perimeter of camping area and up to 15 primitive sites</li> </ul>	Years 2-5, trail work ongoing	
<b>Juniper Bass</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct up to 15 primitive- drive-in/boat-in designated sites.</li> <li>• Camper registration required</li> <li>• Define perimeter of camping area and up to 15 primitive sites</li> <li>• Coordinate with BLM to review the potential for trail connections to adjacent BLM land.</li> </ul>	Years 2-5, trail work ongoing	
<b>Cattle Guard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define perimeter of camping area and up to 8 primitive sites</li> <li>• Construct up to 8 primitive-drive-in/boat-in designated sites.</li> <li>• Camper registration required</li> <li>• Coordinate with BLM to review the potential for trail connections to adjacent BLM land</li> </ul>	Years 2-5, trail work ongoing	

**Old Field**

- Define perimeter of camping area and up to 25 primitive sites
  - Construct up to 25 primitive-drive-in/boat-in designated sites.
  - Camper registration required
  - Coordinate with BLM to review the potential for trail connections to adjacent BLM land
- Years 2-5, trail work ongoing

**Combs Flat (proposed - near Combs Flat Rd. at eastern end of the SWA)**

- Day use only.
  - Non-motorized trailhead and trail (hiking, biking, equestrian) connections to North Side Primitive Road and adjacent BLM property
  - Define perimeter, provide support facilities.
- Years 2-5

**Jasper Point Boat Ramp and Campground**

- Construct small maintenance yard area.
- Years 2-5

**North Shore (outside of SWA)**

Standards/Requirements

Schedule/Priority

Development Description

**State Park North Expansion Area** (area just north and upslope of State Park [see Figure 5.2-2, State Park Conceptual Plan])

- Full hook-up campground (80 sites max.)
  - Cabin cluster (10 max.)
  - Group camp (20 sites max.)
  - Trails- hiking and biking.
  - Dump station
- Years 5-10, trail work ongoing

**State Park**

[see Figure 5.2-2, State Park Conceptual Plan]

- Expand existing maintenance yard.
- Relocate registration booth.
- Improve trail to Jasper Point.
- Expand overnight moorage (20 max.).
- Infrastructure improvements.
- Provide employee housing (2 houses for 4 seasonals).
- Concession store for rentals (bikes, kayaks).
- Construct an accessible fishing pier.
- Add 3 cabins.
- Construct a new park office.

Years 2-5

**Antelope Creek Day Use Area**  
(currently undeveloped proposed new site located west of existing State Park and east of Antelope Creek)

- Developed day use area with swimming and picnicking.
- Group day use area with shelter.
- Non-motorized trailhead and trail connections.
- Parking (50 maximum).
- Construct an accessible fishing pier
- Provide overflow parking

Years 5-10

**County Boat Ramp**

- Improve existing boat ramp.
- Improve parking/traffic.
- Retain as day use only area.
- Work with BLM to explore option of Reclamation/ OPRD/BLM parking area for boat ramp parking and/or non-motorized trailhead.

Years 5-10, trail work ongoing

**Dispersed Boat-in Use**

- Provide some basic amenities (e.g., picnic tables, boat tie-ups, portable toilet, fire rings) at a few select dispersed locations to concentrate use. Selective sites would be monitored for cultural and natural resources degradation and closed if necessary.

Years 2-5

## South Shore (outside of SWA)

	Development Description	Schedule/Priority	Standards/Requirements
<b>Dispersed Boat-in Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide some basic amenities (e.g., picnic tables, boat tie-ups, portable toilet, fire rings) at a few select dispersed locations to concentrate use. Selective sites would be monitored for cultural and natural resources degradation and closed if necessary.</li> </ul>	Years 2-5	
<b>Powder House Cove</b>	<p>Phase 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build new entrance and boat ramp access road.</li> <li>Construct new boat ramp east of existing ramp.</li> <li>Provide additional truck and trailer parking (75 max.).</li> <li>Close old boat ramp.</li> <li>Construct day use area with separate parking area (20 max.) and trailhead.</li> <li>Construct non-motorized trail - interpretive loop trail to old Powder House and Taylor Butte.</li> <li>New vault toilet(s).</li> <li>Manage for day use only.</li> <li>Work with appropriate agencies to eliminate parking on Hwy 27.</li> </ul> <p>Phase 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add additional parking for trucks and trailers (45 max).</li> </ul>	Years 1-5	
<p>[Note: See Figure 5.2-3, Powder House Cove, Conceptual Plan].</p>			
<b>Bear Creek</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing condition and use patterns.</li> <li>Construct a turn-around at the end of the road.</li> </ol>	Years 2-5	3.

**Juniper Point**

- Up to 20 Primitive-designated campsites
- Gravel roads.
- Provide adequate toilet facilities.

All facility construction is dependent upon Reclamation's ability to determine or acquire legal access to Roberts Bay. If legal access can be determined or acquired, Reclamation in cooperation with OPRD will take responsibility for maintaining the road to Roberts Bay commensurate with the level of facility development. If legal access cannot be determined or obtained, and Reclamation cannot responsibly manage these lands, then it may be necessary to close this recreation area.

**Roberts Bay East**

[Note: See Figure 5.2-4, Roberts Bay Conceptual Plan].

\*\*Phased development as follows:

Phase I:

- Create designated use areas for the entire site including designated camping areas.
- Develop group camps as part of designated use areas.
- Institute camp host(s).
- Develop a day use area for picnicking and swimming with parking for up to 50 vehicles.
- Develop trails.
- Begin Roberts Bay Road improvements, pending determining or acquiring legal access, and begin road realignment within the Roberts Bay recreation site area.

Phase II

- Designated campsites (50 max.) with water, electricity, and toilet buildings with showers.
- Primitive group camps (5 with 10 sites each) with only centralized water and toilets.
- Two group camps with group picnic shelter with water and power.
- Cabin cluster (15 max.).
- RV dump station.
- Trails and trail connections.
- Host sites.
- Accessible fishing pier.
- Camp talk area.
- Registration building.
- Walk-in tent camp area with 20 sites.
- Overflow parking lot.

Years 1-5 dependant on road access

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Years 8-10+ dependant on road access

<p><b>Roberts Bay West</b></p> <p>[Note: See Figure 5.2-4, Roberts Bay Conceptual Plan].</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat ramp and parking area, non-motorized trailhead and trail to island, maintenance yard, employee housing, entrance gate, and host sites.</li> </ul>	<p>Years 8-10+ dependant on road access</p>	<p>All facility construction is dependent upon Reclamation’s ability to determine or acquire legal access to Roberts Bay. If legal access can be determined or acquired, Reclamation in cooperation with OPRD will take responsibility for maintaining the road to Roberts Bay commensurate with the level of facility development. If legal access cannot be determined or obtained, and Reclamation cannot responsibly manage these lands, then it may be necessary to close this recreation area.</p>
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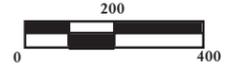
# State Park North- Proposed

- Proposed Camp Loops (80 Sites Max.)
- Proposed RV Dumpstation
- Proposed Group Camp (20 Sites Max.)



Figure 5.2-2

## State Park Conceptual Plan



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- Proposed Cabin Cluster (10 Max.)
- Proposed Group Meeting Hall

Juniper Canyon Road

Proposed Trail

Proposed Trail

Existing Trail to Jasper Point

- Fishing Pier
- Swimming Area
- Proposed Day Use Area (50 Parking Spaces Max.)
- Proposed Overflow Parking Area (20 Parking Spaces Max.)
- Proposed Group Day Use Area

Cabin Area Expansion (3 Units Max.)

Moorage Expansion (20 Slips Max.)

# Antelope Creek Day Use Area - Proposed

- Proposed Employee Housing
- Expand Existing Maintenance Yard
- Proposed Concession Bldg.

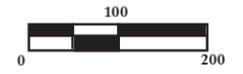
# Prineville State Park

PRINEVILLE RESERVOIR

Fishing Pier

**Figure 5.2-3**

**Powder House  
Cove  
Conceptual Plan**



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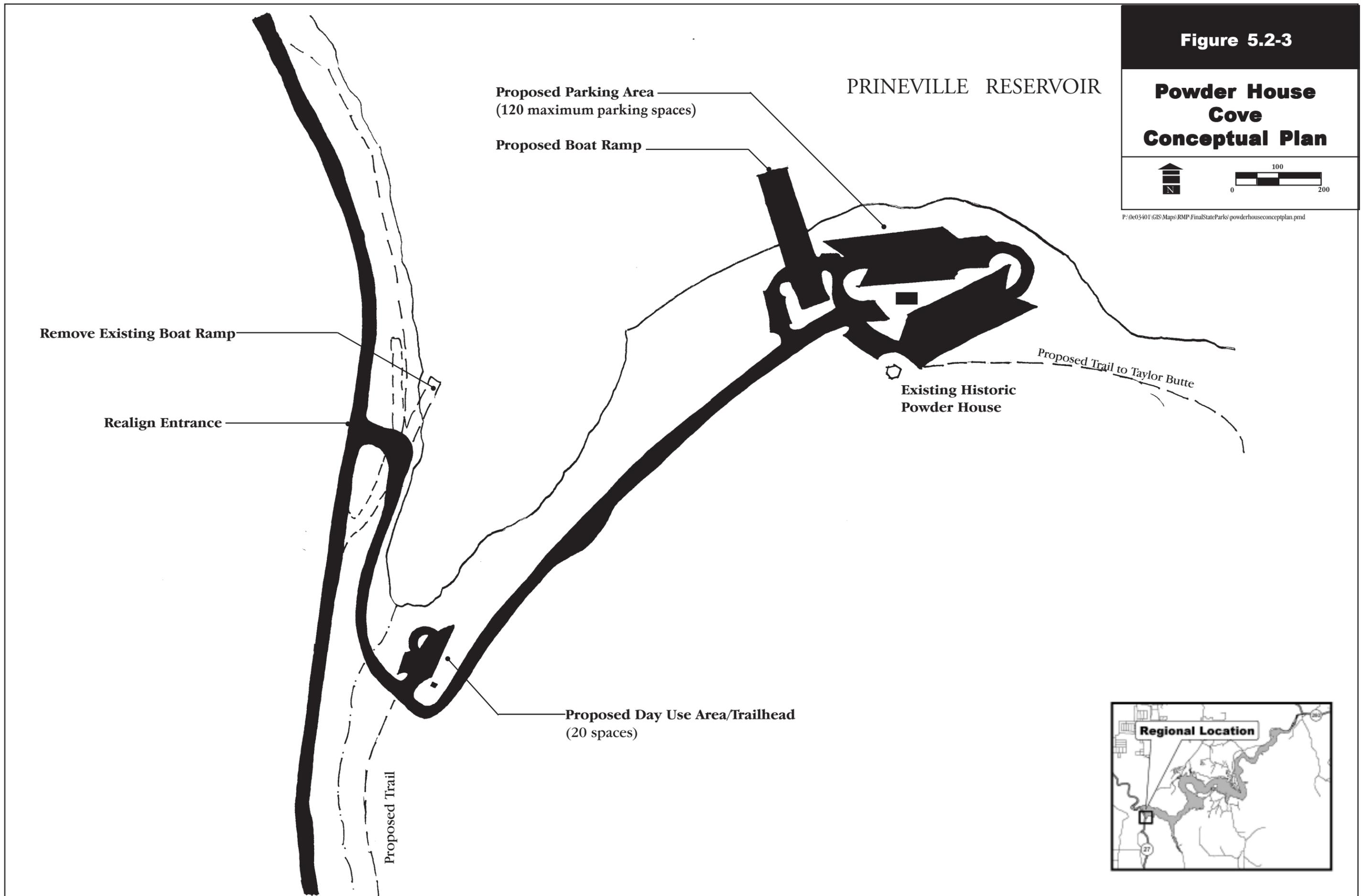
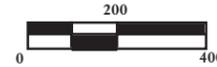


Figure 5.2-4

# Roberts Bay Conceptual Plan



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