



Beltz Property on Sand Lake Estuary in Tillamook County

Background, next steps, timeline

The Beltz property is 357 acres at the southern end of the Sand Lake estuary, a vital mix of dunes, forest, and natural wetlands well-suited for low-key, nature-based recreation.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is interested in adding important, rare natural lands like the Beltz property to the ocean shore system to build on its current success with Whalen Island, and to provide Oregonians with parks that encourage outdoor recreation in quality settings. The department's involvement around Sand Lake stretches back decades:

- 1) **1960s-70s:** Beltz property noted as high-value natural resource property that would make desirable addition to the state park system.
- 2) **2000:** Acquired large portion of Whalen Island and developed low-impact recreation (trails and beach access).
- 3) **2004:** Beltz appraised by OPRD, but attempt to purchase is unsuccessful.
- 4) **2006:** Beltz ranks high on the general state park acquisition priority list and named as a goal for 2007-2013.
- 5) **2012:** Property identified as a potential acquisition, but no opportunity presents itself.
- 6) **2014:**
 - a. April: Added again to OPRD priority list.
 - b. May: The private nonprofit Ecotrust buys the property. OPRD director Lisa Van Laanen signs an option with Ecotrust allowing the department to purchase the property by August.
 - c. June: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission could authorize the acquisition on June 25 at their regularly scheduled meeting in Klamath Falls.
 - d. August: Pending authorization from the state commission, department could purchase property from the nonprofit.
 - e. No date set yet: Public planning, opening accesses, working on trails, improving natural resources. Probably 2015 and beyond at earliest.

Comments on the proposal may be sent by email to oprđ.publiccomment@oregon.gov.

