



Oregon State Parks: Integrated Park Services Division

South Beach and Beverly Beach Management Units Plan

August 11 & 12, 2015 – Public Meetings Summary

Meeting Highlights:

- Attendance was low overall. Eight people attended the Advisory Committee meeting on August 11th and three people attended the Beverly Beach public meeting on August 12th.
- Lots of support expressed for increased public awareness for natural resource protection, especially around tidepools. Comments that tidepool specialists should be prioritized at high use areas to give visitors information and help control damage to the ecosystems.
- ‘Plan Values’ were generally supported, with suggestions to include themes or sub-themes such as visual access, solitude, preservation, and valuing the natural environment for its own sake - not just as a resource for humans. Access value should include low income families.
- Several comments and support for more overnight camping on the coast, especially walk-in camping opportunities targeted at younger generation. Some concern about development in high value resource areas, such as at Beverly Beach.
- Enthusiasm for the idea of formal gardens at Yaquina Bay, and for updating that park in general as it plays an important role for Newport residents (‘Golden Gate Park’ of Newport).
- Several questions about when Brian Booth State Park is expected to open. Comment about need to include better reference to Brian Booth in this plan so that future campground buildout is considered when arguing the need for more camping within the two management units.
- Some concern about car break-ins throughout the Management Units – a volunteer ambassador program (as was suggested during the recent Columbia Gorge planning process) could be a solution.
- Interest in seeing natural resource reports prepared by OPRD staff. Links to the reports will be posted on the website.

Partnerships and Outreach

- There is a need to explore and strengthen OPRD’s partnerships in order to provide improved education/visitor experience opportunities.
- A big opportunity to work with schools to expand environmental education in parks because of recent legislation passed authorizing statewide outdoor schools. Parks

provide low cost classrooms - this should be supported in the plan with increased picnic shelters, yurts, parking for buses, etc.

- US Forest Service has been a great partner with regard to providing interpretive volunteers.
- Surfrider has had good success with stewardship focus days—water quality, clean up after fireworks. They provide a platform to present to park users and give them the opportunities to be a park steward. Discussion about expanding this model to include educational or interpretive stewardship programs.

Beverly Beach Management Unit

Gleneden Beach

- Comment that WorldMark Resort is overwhelming the park; guests have private gated access to park. Suggestion that OPRD needs to do more to understand impacts of adjacent development during planning process.

Fogarty Creek

- Opposition as well as support for the idea of adding camping to the park, potential to build sites such as walk-in sites that appeal to a new generation of campers.
- Comment that there is a sewage leak in the park, but this has not been verified by OPRD staff. Smell may simply be fumes from the pipeline.

Boiler Bay

- Comment that the sandstone outcrops have a lot of erosion from walking. Boardwalks might be a better way to provide walking areas and lessen the erosion.(Examples Yaquina Bay, Yaquina Head, Seal Rock).
- Comment that coast aquarium has current interpretive exhibit about Boiler Bay in shipwrecks exhibit.

Otter Crest

- Suggestion to add permanent public restrooms (currently only porta-pots). Staff: does not appear to be enough room to build a permanent restroom building.
- Suggestion to add barriers on the curve of Otter Crest Loop to improve separation for pedestrians and increase safety. This could work better and be a lot cheaper than building a whole new trail.

Devils Punchbowl

- Suggestion for a tram or tow rope to get surfing gear up and down.
- Comment that showers at this facility are great and public is glad to have them.
- Agreement that there are significant wayfinding needs - the north trail in particular is difficult to find. Also a suggestion that signage about tidepool ethics would be good and that tides come in fast and can strand people, so warning signage would be helpful.
- Suggestion for an access ladder to aid rescues on the south side of the park because this is where majority of surfer rescues happen.

Beverly Beach

- Concern from a neighbor about ODOT's plans to reroute highway 101 as Phase 2 of Spencer Creek bridge construction, suggesting the park entrance will be destroyed.
- Question about replacing group camps with yurts. Staff: group camps are not being utilized enough, Beverly Beach has 21 yurts with a 90% occupancy rate during the year, which makes them a very good investment, and the footprint is light.
- Comment that State Parks needs to consider natural resources in the park and how camping impacts them. Suggestions to redirect some of the pedestrian trails away from the creeks, add vegetation between campsites, and provide tent platforms for walk-in campsites.

Yaquina Bay

- Comments that the park has too many trails, transient presence, and too much traffic moving through.
- Support for the idea of establishing a formal garden – offer from Job Corps representative to partner on this effort and provide work crews.

South Beach Management Unit

South Beach

- Questions about siting disc golf course in sensitive dunal area. Staff explained potential to restore loose sandy native dune environments by establishing disc golf course in degraded areas and allowing players to trample established non-native vegetation, while also protecting areas in good condition.
- Question about adding bay access along the jetty. Staff: the jetty is under Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction, there are two access points near the bridge that are currently under planning with ACOE.

Seal Rock

- Problem with school groups and increased visitation in general degrading the tidepools. OPRD maintains an interpretive presence as much as possible during minus tides, but cannot supervise tidepools at all times.
- Many school groups (from out of county) just show up unannounced – maybe there is a way to coordinate school visits statewide.
- Need for more staff and volunteers to protect tidepools. Hand out pamphlets or increased educational signage. Can groups be redirected elsewhere? Currently, Yaquina Head gets overloaded and directs groups to places like Seal Rock.

Collin's Creek

- Several comments that this is a local beach and there is no need to change that, although seems the word may be getting out.

L. Presley & Vera C. Gill (Hidden Lake)

- Suggestion to direct people here from Driftwood Beach as a day hike option rather than build a new parking lot adjacent to the highway.

Governor Patterson

- Comment about septic system – there is sewer available across the highway.
- Acquisition potential across the highway and just south. There are some development constraints because of limited access due to ODOT waystation as well as wetlands, but it seems like it could be a nice campsite. Possible access under the highway.

Yachats

- Comment about erosion problems roads at Yachats and Yachats Ocean Road. Need to have cooperative management between OPRD/county/ city to address erosion issues and possible road realignment.
- Keep the two-way system at Yachats Ocean Road – it is working well because it is so narrow that it keeps the traffic slow and careful.