



*Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:
Integrated Park Services Division*

West End Public Meeting IV – Draft Plan Review

Columbia River Gorge Management Units Plan

Date: October 22, 2014

Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Port of Cascade Locks, Marine Park Pavilion

Meeting Summary

OPRD staff introduced the purpose of the meeting and presented the Draft Plan.

There was concern from nearby residents about where additional parking at Portland Women's Forum would be located. They wanted to ensure there would be room for people to enjoy the view and suggested that parking be moved further west. Neighbors also brought up the issue of tourists missing the turn off to Portland Women's Forum and turning around in driveways. There was additional concern about people driving too fast (especially motorcycles) on the Historic Highway near Portland Women's Forum. Neighbors felt that more signs are needed coming from the west alert people to the presence of the park and tell them to slow down.

There was a suggestion to include a restroom by the ADA fishing dock at West Mayer because it would be a long walk to the nearest existing restroom.

An attendee noted that none of the trails at Viento are signed, and that cleared, signed trails would greatly improve visitor experience.

Representatives for equestrian interests asked whether equestrians would have access to the proposed wygant trail connection between the Historic Columbia River Highway and Post Canyon. They wanted to ensure that equestrians would still have access to many of the trails in this area, pointing out that equestrian use is a longstanding, historical use in this area and should be honored as such. OPRD staff indicated the Post Canyon trail connection would be multi-use and would likely accommodate horses, but would not necessarily be designed with horses in mind. It was also pointed out that horses are not allowed on the Historic Columbia River Highway, so horse access from Viento to the trail system would not be possible.

Kevin Price noted that a portion of the historic road between Portland Women's Forum and Rooster Rock is a county road and does not belong to OPRD. This would be discussed with Multnomah County during the compatibility review of the plan.

There was a question about whether it was OPRD's intent to have the Plan adopted as part of the Scenic Area Management Plan and how it would relate to Washington in terms of the two-state compact. Jaime English clarified that the Plan would not amend the Scenic Area Management Plan.

There was concern that maintenance costs had not been taken into account for budgeting estimates and when considering the financial impacts of proposed projects. Kevin Price noted that OPRD is not planning to add staff along with new developments, but that managers would continue to use creative methods to address service needs, such as working with volunteers. Jaime English pointed out that some projects in the Plan are not new developments but simply call for rehabilitation of existing facilities.

There was a question about OPRD's strategy to increase funding for planning at the legislative level, and a suggestion that the agency should be more aggressive in working with and soliciting help from local communities to obtain funding for projects with economic development opportunities. Angie Brewer with the Gorge Commission offered the Commission's help with these types of efforts.

Angie Brewer with the Gorge Commission asked whether there had been any assessment of changes in level of use as a result of proposals, in terms of cumulative effects on resources. Jaime English noted that this type of assessment is challenging, but that the Plan attempts to allow for flexibility in response to changes in population, recreation trends, etc. Angie Brewer noted that Washington State Parks has implemented a strategy of setting limits on acceptable changes to resources within parks. This method includes establishing a baseline standard and taking steps (such as closing park areas) not to exceed standards.

There was a comment that this Plan could set the stage for looking at the Gorge as one common recreational area and facilitate the sharing of resources between agencies and communities. There was a suggestion to add a copy of the Scenic Area Act and Two State Compact to the 'additional resources' of the Plan.

One of the attendees stressed the need to look at the impact of recreation on bridges like the Bridge of the Gods and the Hood River Bridge.

It was noted that Cascade Locks is hiring a recreation manager to manage large recreation events such as an upcoming marathon, and that events like these could impact OPRD properties.