

OREGON PARKS and RECREATION DEPARTMENT OREGON PLAN 2000 ANNUAL REPORT

Since the inception of the Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative, now the Oregon Plan, and the Willamette River Initiative, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has completed or implemented all of the Oregon Plan and Willamette River Initiative (WRI) measures except for the construction of a large interpretive exhibit at an urban park. OPRD has developed an Oregon Plan Policy, a Natural and Cultural Resource Compliance Manual and Integrated Pest Management Plans as aids to guide field and headquarters staff managing park properties and recreation. OPRD is developing a natural resource unit that will be committed to natural resource protection and restoration.

OPRD has partnered and cooperated with farmers, watershed councils, schools, native plant societies, boy and girl scouts, volunteers, county, state and federal agencies and extension services to accomplish on the ground projects and interpretive programs. Both field and headquarters staffs are looking for innovative ways to get these projects and programs accomplished. OPRD is taking one small step at a time to implement the Oregon Plan.

OPRD has completed projects to help fish and improve riparian areas at over 35 park and Willamette River Greenways properties around the state. Projects include riparian restorations, riparian fencing, in stream habitat structures, off channel rearing ponds, innovative farming practices and changes in turf management. OPRD is using interpretive programs in parks around the state that helps visitors understand and instill a sense of stewardship toward Oregon's natural, cultural and historical resources.

Over the last 4 years OPRD has completed eight in-stream habitat projects most notably at Beverly Beach and Catherine Creek State Parks. Fifteen riparian restoration projects include relocating campsites away from Catherine Creek and reestablishing the riparian area at Catherine Creek State Park. At Luckiamute Landing Greenway on the Willamette River, OPRD expanded the width of the riparian area to 250 feet in cooperation with the farmer leasing the land and the NRCS. OPRD has restored approximately fifteen acres of wetland at Champoeg State Park along the Willamette River. OPRD has completed seven riparian fencing projects. Valley of the Rogue State Park fenced off 2,600 feet of riparian area on the Rogue River along a grazing lease and placed water troughs to supply cattle with water as an alternative to using the river. Cape Blanco fenced cattle out of the Sixes River and is replanting the riparian zone in a cooperative effort with Port Orford Middle School biology class. OPRD has provided trees for in-stream habitat projects and thousands of Sitka spruce saplings for riparian restorations on the coast. At Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site, annual rye grass was seeded into a mint field to provide a no till winter cover crop. OPRD, Linn County, NRCS and the farmer leasing the land cooperated on this first of a kind planting as a demonstration project.

OPRD in partnership with Lewis and Clark College are using undergraduate students to develop a plan for collecting long-term stream data. Students have conducted water quality protocols and riparian habitat inventories to determine stream health. In partnership with Parkrose High School, students have set up a watershed monitoring station on Eagle Creek and annual results are incorporated into the Student Watershed Research Project.

OPRD is presenting interpretive programs on salmon and watershed health in parks in all areas of the state. An interpretive staff person has been assigned to develop new interpretive programs to be presented at evening campfire and Junior Ranger programs. Interpretive signs have been developed and installed at in-stream habitat project sites at nine state parks. Beverly Beach and Cape Lookout State Parks have developed an interpretive trail and both guided and self-guided walks are available to park visitors. Tryon Creek State Park in partnership with the Tryon Creek Watershed Council is offering classes to upstream residents. These classes focus on erosion control, invasive species removal, storm water management, native plant restoration, and stream sensitive landscape techniques.

OPRD is exploring acquisition opportunities along the Willamette River.

OPRD 1 Improve fish habitat and riparian zones within OPRD properties.

- * Property acquisition of 150 acres at Whalen Island.

- * Seven riparian fencing projects.

- * Change turf maintenance practices by cutting back on the use and type of chemicals, use organic fertilizers and change mowing practices.

- * Trail improvements designed to reduce erosion.

- * 8 in stream fish habitat improvement projects.

- * Stop clearing brush from creek banks.

- * Partnerships with local schools and colleges to do plantings and water quality monitoring.

- * Widening riparian areas using farming agreements and CREP Program.

- * Two wetland restorations.

- * Worked with NRCS, Linn County and farmer to do a demonstration no till winter cover crop of annual rye grass in mint field near Luckimute River.

- * Reconnect old oxbow with the Willamette River on a year around basis. OPRD and Army Corps of Engineers project.

- * Developed off channel rearing habitat on Brush Creek.

- * On going culvert assessment on fish bearing streams.

- * Redesigned campground to move campsites away from Catherine Creek fenced and planted riparian area.

- * Two projects to fence riparian areas to keep cattle out and provide cattle with alternative water sources.

- * Planted over 25,000 trees and shrubs along rivers and streams in eastern Oregon to allow development of riparian areas and to steer park visitors to areas that will have less impact on fish and water quality.

OPRD 2 Disposition of hazard and blow down trees from OPRD properties.

- * Thousands of Sitka spruce seedling natural reproduction has been dug at Oswald West State Park over the last nine years for riparian restorations in Clatsop and Tillamook counties.

- * Contributed logs to ODFW for in stream restoration projects.

OPRD-9 Provide interpretive opportunities in State Parks to help educate people about salmonids.

- * Numerous interpretive programs on watershed health and salmon presented at evening and Junior Ranger programs and guided nature walks.

- * Interpretive signs placed at eight parks in conjunction with in stream and riparian projects.

- * Watershed education classes that focus on erosion control, invasive species removal, storm water management, native plant restoration and stream sensitive landscape techniques in partnership with Tryon Creek Watershed Council.

- * Worked with SOLV on cleanup projects at Tumalo and Cline Falls State Park on the Deschutes River and Lake Billy Chinook Day at The Cove Palisades State Park.

OPRD-10 Develop an interpretive/educational center at urban park.

- * On hold until funding becomes available.