

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

September 18, 2008

Agenda Item: 11

Action

Topic: Marr Ranch Master Plan

Presented by: Kate Schutt

Background: Staff from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) have revised and refined the final draft master plan for the protection of the cultural and natural resource values at our new Marr Ranch site, near Joseph. Revisions from the draft plan include more precise wording regarding coordination with the Tribes and other partners, and minor adjustments to the proposed trails and trailheads based on emerging site information.

- The plan provides for one main public access trailhead at the northeast corner of the site, where it can be out of sight from most of the viewpoints and main trail segments, and to keep development far from the Old Chief Joseph Gravesite and Cemetery to the south.
- The final draft retains the option to build a small local access parking lot and host site off the end of Main Street but shows it in a revised configuration. The access would include some ADA parking spaces and trail access for those with mobility disabilities. Construction of non-ADA parking spaces at the Main Street access would be decided if needed to lessen parking congestion in the neighborhood and/or to provide more informal supervision of the site.
- The trail connection at the south end of the site is also retained and will have an orientation panel.
- The plan now allows a future option for disabled trail access from the Northeast Trailhead to a moraine viewpoint, if and when the adjacent undeveloped parcel can be acquired which has the right topography for the ADA trail design.

The master plan will be the basis for the design, construction and opening of the 2009 Park of the Year. Design and permitting will be completed over this fall and winter, and construction is slated for the spring and summer.

Action Requested: Staff seek commission approval to take the final draft master plan to Wallowa County for required local approval. Following that, staff will process an Oregon Administrative Rule Amendment to adopt the master plan into rule.

Prior Action by Commission:

March 8, 2007: commission approved acquisition of the Marr Ranch site.

July 17, 2008: staff presented draft master plan to commissioners for information.

Prepared by: Kathy Schutt