

OPRD: Facilities, plants, wildlife, people management of it, access for people, cultural resources, water resources. We don't even dig a hole without making sure it won't affect our resources.

Comment: Are these running concurrently?

OPRD: Yes impact analysis process is running concurrently.

Comment: You have overall trends, but do you have specific trends?

OPRD: Yes, we will use GIS and other resources to find more specific trends to be able to factor in all that would be impacted.

Comment: Traffic change in recent years – including types of usage?

OPRD: We did install trail counters to try and understand the volume and usage. The day use survey gave us a good perspective of usage as well.

We have been working with Deschutes County to try and work on the traffic issues. Many of the folks who park on the road don't get counted. We've tried temporary areas, but as they are temporary the lot would be very muddy right now. We are trying to come up with some solutions especially for the neighbors. The issue is also that it's a county road not a parks road. We have very little control over those roads.

Comment: It is a high use park and when did the counters go on the trail?

OPRD: In the end of August. They are all hooked up to Bluetooth so we can look at the data right away. We will see the use over different seasons.

Comment: 700,000 visitors at Smith Rock where does that rank?

OPRD: The peak use is usually the three months of the summer for most parks, but with Smith Rock it is used year round.

Comment: Is it based on who bought a day use pass?

OPRD: No, it is the count of the cars. We use a formula to work in the number of people in the car.

Comment: What about getting a parking situation outside the park and then shuttling them in?

OPRD: It can be a management strategy to minimize impact. We are trying to explore options.

Comment: What is the perceived capacity of the park now?

OPRD: We are trying to figure that out now, but we know that we are over capacity. We can calculate restroom capacity, but that does not account for the capacity in the canyon. We have a lot of other uses than the average park. We do have numbers for several of these.

Comment: Do you think it is premature to be coming out with a masterplan this quickly?

OPRD: We can see the usage trends and use that for the master plan. It does appear we may have peaked in user numbers.

Comment: Resource management – do you consider the economic ramifications when looking at the management of those resources?

OPRD: Yes, Terry Bergerson is currently doing a statewide analysis of economic indicators from parks.

Comment: There are a lot of manufacturers in this area.

OPRD: There are only 630 acres that we need to protect.

Comment: Give us some info on SCORP.

OPRD: The SCORP is produced every 5 years. Surveys go out at the beginning of the process. This data helps inform some proposals for the park based on user data and feedback.

Comment: What is the architecture of trails and how the impact of usage on the trails?

OPRD: We are not proposing new trails at this time. The trail assessment will help us define where maintenance is needed. We need input from you today to put into our assessments.

OPRD: We only have two fulltime staff at Smith Rock so managing those trails is very difficult.

Feedback on the process – I think it is difficult to make any decisions without any baseline data. I think knowing the duration of the usage would be very helpful.

Comment: It may be premature to begin a planning process without all of the baseline data already received.

OPRD: Climbers will come and spend the whole day and others that show up just for the snapshot moment. We also have a lot of data on vegetation, user numbers, etc.

Comment: The survey asks what type of usage. Are you collecting data on folks who bring groups?

OPRD: Scott our manager has a lot of that information.

Comment: Are there other “stop gap measures” you are trying outside of the master plan?

This spring or summer – we are looking at putting the bivouac sites on reservation system. We also approached Deschutes County to prohibit parking on Wilcox. They do not want to go that far with prohibiting parking. There are other things we have been looking at. The commission did not want to do that.

Comment: I would like to get your comment on how for profit ventures are being managed.

OPRD: Races at the park (for profit) – we are working through that. We have limited times and seasons so they do not overlap the peak seasons. Do we want to continue that and how do we manage that.

OPRD: How as park users does that affect you?

Comment: Climbers cannot get into the park because the runners are all over the road. That is an issue.

Comment: Process – Propose concepts –Adaptive Management-- what I want to see is some forecasting into the future. Look at the trends nationally and be proactive not reactive. Outdoor recreation trends are growing everywhere.

OPRD: Are there any parks that are similar to Smith Rock in size, use, etc.

Comment: There are a few like: Croatia, Stone Mountain in Georgia, and Black Hills in South Dakota.

What do you think of when you think of Smith Rock?

Comment: Climbing monkey face, scenery, eagles, never gets old. It is more than a park.

What do you value about Smith Rock?

Comment: The habitat that it provides.

It is not overly developed.

Openness, everything, community.

You can get into a place with a state park pass and can shower, bathroom, stay.

OPRD is protecting it.

Trail system is awesome.

What would you like to stay the same at Smith Rock?

Comment: We are afraid this plan will restrict climbing. I like that it is rustic and do not want RV pads out there. Less developed.

Uniquely rugged close to an urban area.

Best part of the day is hiking out.

Hardest part is parking--and the amount of climbers now.

The gym climbers are coming out to the outdoor ill prepared and putting others at risk.

How do You react to the non-climbers using the park?

As long as visitors have an understanding of ethics, how to act, be prepared we have no issue with other visitors. There are also a lot more climbers in the park who also need to respect the site.

How do we educate all users so that everyone is respectful?

Sharing the knowledge as well.

OPRD: Scott Brown has been promoting the 5 principles of Smith Rock to try and spread the word on how to respect the park.

Comment: Junior ranger program is phenomenal! You can instill those values via the kids.

Comment: We can provide historic and baseline data as experienced recreationists at Smith Rock

OPRD: We take all of your comments and online surveys and develop values of the park. We will bring a draft list of values to the next public meeting.

Comment: Helping with technical analysis; By dividing parking we can be more articulate in how we determine capacity; We must always look at trails and other areas. When looking at baseline levels we are trying to establish the geographic areas and their associated uses. Beyond a projected capacity number we utilize many layers of information to help define the capacity of the park. As an outsider participating in this study there is a ton of useful data already collected that can be utilized in the capacity analysis and development of the masterplan.

OPRD: We also have the experience of park staff over decades; looking back at the 1991 plan there is a lot that can be discovered in proposals and previous discussions.

What would you like to change about Smith Rock?

Change, parking, overcrowding, disperse folks more evenly

Comment: Bike restrictions – especially along the river—it’s the use and quality of use. The folks using the trails aren’t skilled enough and not good stewards. Appropriate uses or designate some trails for hiking only.

Comment: Accountability of users – dogs off leash, parking tickets, increase of aggressive dogs that get tied up

Comment: The main climbing guides help out a lot.

Comment: Joshua Tree has a “climbers coffee every weekend with free coffee to get people out to get info out there climate for the day, engage with folks.

Comment: Having a house on that road the parking and traffic is horrible.

Comment: Set up an Etiquette for newbies

Comment: Have a volunteer page or on a board at the park.

OPRD: We have 200 people to come out for spring cleaning. Maybe we should do more than one.

OPRD: Working with volunteers is difficult. Volunteer coordination is a lot of work. Visitor ridge is too busy in the springtime.

Comment: Get the volunteer information out there! Most folks had no idea that we had a program out there.

Comment: Electric car charging & spaces.

What kinds of recreation activities do you see at this park?

Comment: Climbing, Birdwatching, Biking hiking, Bouldering

OPRD: What would you like to do?

Comment: Base jumping illegal?

OPRD: YES!

Next meeting will be providing the assessment results and concept alternatives.

Appreciate the conversation and including the community.

Meeting adjourned.