

Recreation Development Plan

The Recreation Development Plan provides the policy framework for implementing high-priority proposed public recreation facilities. The GMA and Urban Areas section outlines the process for identifying priority recreation projects and the criteria by which projects applicants seeking Scenic Area grants should be evaluated.

In the SMA section, the Recreation Development Plan provides goals and policies for evaluating whether proposals achieve the recreation goals and objectives of the Scenic Area Act.

The proposed recreation facilities are described in the Recreation Development Proposals list, adopted separately from the Management Plan.

The proposals list highlights selected sites and proposed projects at those sites that, when implemented, will best achieve the recreation goals and objectives of the Scenic Area Act.

Section 16 of the Scenic Area Act authorized \$10 million for the construction of recreation facilities plus \$2.8 million specifically to restore and reconstruct abandoned segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway. It is strongly recommended that the sites described in the Recreation Development Proposals list be given priority consideration for receipt of the public funds authorized by the Act, as well as consideration from other public sources in federal, state, or local programs.

GMA AND URBAN AREA PROVISIONS

GMA and Urban Area Goal

Identify those highest priority recreation projects that best meet the recreation goals and objectives of the Management Plan and facilitate their implementation through the Recreation Development Plan.

GMA and Urban Area Policies

1. Projects identified in the Recreation Development Proposals list are high priorities for public funding and shall receive preferential consideration for receipt of public

monies as authorized in Section 16(b) of the Scenic Area Act and other funds, such as federal, state and local agency grants; foundation grants; and other sources.

2. Disbursement of monies authorized in Section 16(b) of the Scenic Area Act for the GMA shall be limited to projects included in the Recreation Development Proposals list for the GMA and Urban Areas.
3. The Gorge Commission shall maintain and update the "Inventory of Potential Recreation Sites" and the "Inventory of Potential Trails and Travelways" as the need to do so arises. Updating may include adding new proposals to the inventories. These inventories are referred to in the remaining policies of this chapter as "the potential recreation inventories."
4. The Gorge Commission and USDA Forest Service shall prepare and maintain a Recreation Development Plan and Recreation Development Proposals List. The Gorge Commission shall review and update the Recreation Development Plan and Recreation Development Proposals List periodically. Recreation Development proposals should be evaluated against applicable Management Plan policies for the protection of natural, cultural, and scenic resources and avoidance of effects on Indian treaty rights.
5. The Gorge Commission shall evaluate proposed recreation facilities at sites in Urban Areas, in consultation with port districts, city and county park agencies, Indian tribal governments, and other appropriate groups, and add appropriate sites to the potential recreation inventories. Such sites may be included in future additions to the Recreation Development Proposals list.
6. Urban Area projects included in the Recreation Development Proposals list shall comply with GMA Management Plan policies regarding the following:
 - A. Indian treaty rights.
 - B. Wetlands, aquatic and riparian areas.
 - C. Sensitive wildlife habitat.
 - D. Sensitive plants.
 - E. Cultural resources.
7. Urban Area projects included in the Recreation Development Proposals list shall be designed in a manner that is compatible with, and where practicable, enhances the visual quality of their setting. These projects should include design features such as generous plantings of native and naturalized riparian vegetation, screening of parking areas, minimizing large areas of parking lots, minimizing

grading, providing public green spaces, etc. Projects that rehabilitate and improve the aesthetic quality of previously disturbed areas will be given preferential consideration for receipt of funds.

8. The Gorge Commission shall submit to Congress and the Secretary of Agriculture a list of projects recommended for receipt of recreation grant monies as authorized under Section 16(b) of the Scenic Area Act.
9. Those projects prioritized for further study, as specified in the Recreation Development Proposals list, may be considered eligible for facility construction funds pending the completion and results of such studies.
10. Funds allocated per Section 16(b) of the Scenic Area Act for a site included in the Recreation Development Proposals list shall be made available only to those proposed projects consistent with the recommendations for that site in the Recreation Development Proposals list.
11. Preferential consideration for funding allocated per Section 16(b) of the Scenic Area Act shall be given to projects demonstrating the following characteristics:
 - A. Provision of substantial barrier-free opportunities.
 - B. Provision of accommodation for alternative or mass transportation.
 - C. Favorable investment/user ratio.
 - D. Agency partnerships.
 - E. Strong public support.
 - F. Enhancement of scenic, natural, and/or cultural resources.
12. The Gorge Commission shall periodically monitor implementation of projects wholly or partially funded pursuant to Section 16(b) of the Scenic Area Act to evaluate their compliance with Policy 11, above.

GMA and Urban Area Recreation Development Plan Grant Guidelines

1. To be eligible for receipt of Scenic Area recreation grants, project applicants shall submit an application packet to the Gorge Commission. Information submitted shall include the following:
 - A. A formal request by a public agency that either owns the site upon which a proposal is located or manages that site. In the latter case, documentation of landowner consent for the proposal shall be included.

- B. A preliminary facility plan, showing the type, location and design features of all proposed development. (The plan may be conceptual.) This plan should indicate the location of any buildings, roads, parking areas, landscaping, irrigation, water storage, and/or other fire suppression features; grading work; and other site improvements associated with the proposal.
- C. A narrative report (may include supporting maps or other graphics) addressing the presence of the following resources on the site and the proposed project's potential effects (and appropriate mitigation measures, if applicable) on those resources:
 - (1) Archaeological, historic or other cultural resources.
 - (2) Wetlands, aquatic, and riparian areas; sensitive wildlife habitat; sensitive plants.
- D. A discussion of tribal treaty fishing activities (or other tribal activities protected by treaties) in the project vicinity and the proposed project's potential effects on those activities (and, if applicable, mitigation measures to avoid effects to such activities).
- E. An itemized request for a specified amount of money for construction of those facilities described in the preliminary facility site plan. (Costs of mitigation measures that are required as part of facility development may be included in funding requests.)
- F. A discussion of how the project complies with the six criteria listed in Policy 11, above.

SMA PROVISIONS

SMA Goal 1

Provide opportunities for public and private recreation use and access to the Columbia River.

SMA Policies

1. Increased access to the Columbia River should be provided.
2. Water-oriented day-use recreation access is emphasized along the Columbia River. Additional campgrounds should be located in proximity to these popular day-use attractions.
3. Opportunities for private recreation resource enhancement should be provided through partnership with public agencies and through application of the recreation intensity class guidelines (Part I, Chapter 4).

SMA Goal 2

Provide a diversity of trail opportunities in the National Scenic Area.

SMA Policies

1. Trails should be provided to link Urban Areas and recreation opportunities in the Scenic Area.
2. A loop trail through the Scenic Area should be supported.
3. Equestrian and mountain bike use should be limited to areas where natural resource sensitivities are low.
4. Trail systems and new trails should incorporate existing segments of older, abandoned, or historic trails.
5. New trails should be provided along the Columbia River shoreline.
6. Trail linkages should be provided between Scenic Area trails and trails on other public lands outside the Scenic Area.
7. Safe bikeways should be provided for recreation use on appropriate public roads.

SMA Goal 3

Increase public awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the scenic, natural, cultural, economic, and recreational resources of the Scenic Area.

SMA Policies

1. Policies for interpretation and education are found in Part III, Chapter 4: Interpretation and Education.
2. New scenic viewpoints should be provided to showcase the grand panoramas of the Scenic Area.

SMA Goal 4

Provide for the restoration and connection of the remaining segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway in keeping with its National Register status.

SMA Policies

1. The corridor of the Historic Columbia River Highway should be managed in cooperation with the State of Oregon as an historic visitor attraction.
2. Intact and usable highway segments should be connected with recreation trails to create a continuous route through the Columbia River Gorge that links local, state, and federal recreation and historic sites.
3. The recommendations identified in *A Study of the Historic Columbia River Highway* (1987) should be followed for restoration and connection projects.

SMA Goal 5

Maximize customer service and cost-effectiveness of recreation opportunities by using partnerships of user groups and recreation providers to design and construct recreation facilities.

SMA Policies

1. Partnerships between private entities, agencies, and/or organizations are the preferred approach for developing recreation facilities.
2. Recreation development shall be coordinated with present and proposed recreation activities of local and state land use plans or outdoor recreation plans, particularly the state Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.
3. Cooperative planning with appropriate agencies and tribal governments should be encouraged where proposed in-lieu Indian fishing sites may provide multiple benefits.