

Mount Hood-Sandy River Corridor Recreation Public Scoping Meeting Notes

June 8, 2016

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Sandy, Oregon

BLM staff Dan Davis, Traci Meredith, and Jeff McCusker provided one-on-one dialogue with members of the public, agencies, and individuals representing groups to discuss three different project areas: Sandy Ridge Trailhead Parking Expansion, Marmot Recreation Site Development, and Wildwood Recreation Site Management Plan at the City of Sandy Community Center, 38348 Pioneer Boulevard.

Intent of the meeting was to inform public of the BLM's potential and proposed projects at the project areas. Each area had a table with map, questions to consider when commenting, and objective statements for why the BLM is moving forward with these potential and proposed projects. There was a fair amount of discussion about regional recreation development, and in the future, at these types of meetings, the BLM should display a regional map which shows town, roads, rivers, and other nearby recreation sites.

22 signed in to the meeting, but it seemed like more attended; 2 written comments were provided

Wildwood Recreation Site Objective Statements:

- Long-term Sustainable Management and Maintenance
- Declining Site Visitation
- Wildwood's Niche in the Regional Recreation Market
- Environmental Education and Cascade Streamwatch
- Vegetation Health and Management
- Administrative Role and Staffing
- Public Transportation Access

Wildwood Recreation Site Questions to Consider When Commenting:

1. What type of camping and day-use activities would you like to see at Wildwood Recreation Site?
2. Do you have any natural resource concerns in the development area?
3. What key features of Wildwood do you think need to be preserved?
4. What outdoor recreation activities at Wildwood are most important to you?
5. How can the BLM improve your visitor experience at Wildwood?
6. Do you have any other concerns related to the proposed plan for Wildwood?

Wildwood Recreation Site comments recorded on flip chart:

1. For camping in the Group Loop location, another camp host that specializes or has experience with campers should be sought
2. Have a few pull-through RV spots
3. Have quiet hours: 10:00 pm to 7:00 am or something similar
4. The RV entrance radius is a little tight, have the existing path to the entrance booth turned into an entrance for RVs
5. 22 RV sites is plenty, don't include option to expand
6. Have an RV check-in area so they can bypass the entrance booth
7. Keep camping in the north of the park – you will need 3 host for this area
8. You may need laundry facilities for certain sized campgrounds – most people are used to these amenities
9. Also vending machines for campers
10. Save as many trees as possible when developing camping
11. No change – leave as is – day only
12. Memorial policy – let people know memorials to remember loved ones happens at Wildwood. Many neighbors have memorials at Wildwood.
 - a. Traci informed this group of individuals that yes, memorials were allowed at the parks, many requests have been coming to Wildwood, and that a district policy is in the works – something like a memorial wall.
13. School groups should be charged entrance fees just like others. OMSI charges schools. Change the no fee policy.
14. Does Wildwood have a Friends Group? Should develop it.
 - a. Traci stated there was no “Friends of Wildwood” group and one could be developed.
15. Need more fee compliance checks. Many people visit but sometimes they don't pay because no one checks.
16. Public outreach for this meeting was lax. Neighbors were unaware of the meeting until the day before and understandably upset.
 - a. Traci informed them an email went out to those individuals, agencies, and groups that provided an email. Also a news release went out and was posted on the Salem BLM's website.
 - b. The group suggested this type of information should be better advertised to the neighbors because it would affect them most (aquifers and homeless camps)
 - c. Meeting could be held at Mt Hood Village or Lyons Club
17. Aquifer levels are affected when more people draw from it. Wells are running dry and individuals fear more of the same after construction of a campground. Sandy Valley and Brightwood areas
 - a. Dry season may have contributed in 2015, BLM has a water right (need to verify with Kirk Appleman, BLM hydrologist)
18. There is already camping in the area: Mt Hood RV Village (cabins/yrurts), Tollgate Campground, McNeal Campground, Green Canyon Campground
19. The area is in a tourist destination which also includes high property taxes – is there some relief that could be done for neighbors that prove their residency with tax receipt or some other form. Only for those home owners or renters in the area. Something like a voucher to obtain a pass. Do not like that one pass is not valid for multiple agencies or locations.

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- a. Traci informed them about the move for a district pass that would allow holders of the pass entrance to day-use fee sites within Salem and Eugene Districts (merging districts in October 2016 into Northwest Oregon District BLM).
 - b. Also the variety of America the Beautiful Annual Passes from senior, disabled, veterans, and general annual pass where cost is free to \$80 but covers all federal agencies (Army Corps, Bureau of Land Management, USFS, Bureau of Reclamation, National Parks Service,...).
20. Concern about wear and tear on resources – trails, banks, plants – more people staying longer could impact what is already seeing deterioration due to use.
 21. Homeless squatters camping will happen. Already happens along Salmon River/Green Canyon campground/McNeal Campground off Lolo Pass road/Tollgate/in forest along the river and on islands in the river.
 22. Keep the site Natural and Serene
 23. Manage and maintain what is there now
 24. Advertise the site more – many don't know what Wildwood offers
 25. Have fees high enough to prevent homeless camping
 26. Go check out Tollgate, Salmon River, Green Canyon campgrounds

Marmot Recreation Area Objective Statements:

- Long-term Sustainable Management and Maintenance
- Site Development
- Visitor Safety
- Marmot's Niche in the Regional Recreation Market
- Administrative Role and Staffing
- Implementation of the Sandy River Basin Integrated Management Plan

Marmot Recreation Area Questions to Consider When Commenting:

1. What type of camping and day-use activities would you like to see at Marmot Recreation Area?
2. Do you have any natural resource concerns in the development area?
3. What key features do you think need to be preserved at Marmot?
4. Do you have any other concerns related to the proposed plan for Marmot?

Marmot Recreation Area comments recorded on flip chart and one-on-one comments:

1. Include a take-out/put-in access location for Sandy River Water Trail
2. Self-registration permits for Sandy River Water Trail
3. Signage for Sandy River Water Trail
4. 2017 marks the 10 year anniversary of the dam removal – there will be a celebration marking the occasion to include multiple agencies. Start planning now.
5. Seamless recreation experience with Metro (Oxbow) and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (Dabney and Lewes and Clark) and Dodge Park (County)
6. Kiosk – cultural/restoration; why the dam was removed
7. River ranger program?
8. The BLM displayed a concept plan showing an aerial photo of the site with labeled polygons for various areas of development. Several members of the public who lived in the area talked about the natural undeveloped beauty of the site, and the pedestrian

bridge. They were concerned that the concept drawing we displayed showed too much development that would degrade those values. People also expressed concern about RVs trying to access the site because of the narrow winding roads in the area, and increased traffic through rural residential areas.

9. A representative from OPRD who was the zone manager for that area attended the meetings, and was interested in cooperating on consistent signage and messaging to the public using the river, and about where overnight use was allowed. He was concerned about people camping on several undeveloped OPRD parcels upstream from Marmot. He also thought there might be opportunities to cooperate between BLM, OPRD, and Clackamas County on law enforcement along the Sandy River. He said he would be contacting us to request GIS data for the Marmot site, to help them with planning and assembling visitor information.

Sandy Ridge Trailhead Objective Statements:

- Long-term Sustainable Management and Maintenance
- Increased Visitation and Lack of Adequate Parking
- Administrative Role and Staffing
- Visitor Safety
- Managing events and what type of events are allowed

Sandy Ridge Trailhead Questions to Consider When Commenting:

1. What type of activities would you like to see at Sandy Ridge Trailhead?
2. Do you have any natural resource concerns in the development area?
3. What key features do you think need to be preserved at Sandy Ridge Trailhead?
4. How can the BLM improve your visitor experience at Sandy Ridge?
5. Do you have any other concerns related to the proposed plan for Sandy Ridge Trailhead?

Sandy Ridge Trailhead comments recorded on flip chart:

1. Additional parking/sharing parking for Sandy River Water Trail/put-in/access
2. Signage for Sandy River Water Trail
3. Self-permit registration for Sandy River Water Trail
4. Sandy River Water Trail – put-in at Sandy Ridge Trailhead and take-out at Marmot
5. Have food carts/vendors at Sandy Ridge please; ones with liquor license