

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

April 12-13, 2023

Agenda Item:	7a	Information
Topic:	Heritage Division Update	
Presented by:	Christine Curran, Deputy Director, Heritage Programs	

Oregon Heritage Hosts Virtual Summit Focused on Volunteers

Staff will host the virtual Oregon Heritage Summit, “Investing in Your Volunteers: Engage, Sustain, Value” April 27th through 28th. A report released by the Oregon Heritage Commission in 2020 demonstrates that the work volunteers do is indispensable to the preservation of Oregon’s heritage with most heritage organizations operated primarily by volunteers. The impact of volunteers was highlighted during the pandemic as the state saw the suspension or ending of volunteer-led programs across the non-profit industry. Building back these critical stakeholder groups is key to continuing the mission of heritage organizations throughout the state. The summit will address strategies to recruit and retain volunteers, and will include panel discussions led by volunteer managers and volunteers themselves. The event will feature a practical workshop aimed at helping participants engage, retain, and value volunteers in a way that impacts both the volunteer and the organization in meaningful ways. The entire Summit will occur online via Zoom. Since the pandemic, Oregon Heritage committed to keeping the Summit in the odd year virtual to encourage participation, whereas the Oregon Heritage Conference held in the even years will be in person at various locations across the state.

Riverside Community Hall is Oregon’s Latest Entry in the National Register

The Riverside Community Hall is among Oregon’s latest entries in the National Register of Historic Places. The rural Riverside Community Hall is approximately three-and-a-half miles southwest of Albany, and six miles northeast of Corvallis. The first documented start of the Hall dates to a group of ladies who decided in 1908 that they needed a community center where people could meet. Built by community members in 1921, the community used Riverside Hall for



Riverside Community Hall, Albany Vcty, Linn Co.

a wide variety of uses, including social gatherings, public presentations and speeches, dramatic and musical performances, community meals, religious services, clubs, interest groups and as a Grange hall. The building expresses many of the features typically associated with the Craftsman style as applied to a public building, including open eaves supported by kneebraces, extensive use of woodwork, and built-in cabinetry and other furniture.

SHPO Staff Work with State and Federal Agencies to Protect Cultural Resources

Oregon SHPO's Review and Compliance staff Jamie French, Archaeologist and Jessica Gabriel, Architectural Historian spent a week in Pendleton, Oregon meeting state and federal agencies to address cultural resource issues in the area. Staff spent two days meeting with the Federal Columbia River Power System working group that oversees the distribution of millions of dollars annually to address cultural resources issues related to the operation of federally-operated dams on the Columbia River, including the McNary, John Day, Bonneville, The Dalles dams.

Staff also met with Matt Diederich from the Oregon Military Department (OMD) to discuss the management of cultural resources at Camp Rees on the site of the former Umatilla Chemical Depot. OMD agreed to preserve several historic buildings associated with the historic WWII-era facility and cultural resource sites when they assumed ownership of the property from the federal Department of Defense. SHPO staff met with OMD representatives and construction contractors to discuss potential rehabilitation options for two former officers' housing buildings, which will be used as visitor accommodations in the future. A tour of historic properties at Camp Rees included the fire station, carpenters' shop, ammunition storage igloos, and Coyote Coulee, a traditional cultural property (TCP) for the Umatilla Indians. Tribal representatives discussed the restoration efforts to maintain and restore the TCP, specifically seed gathering, controlled burning, and planting native species.



WWII Era housing (top) and Coyote Coulee (bottom) at Camp Rees, Morrow Co.

On the return trip staff met with local archaeologists working in Echo. Flooding in 2022 heavily eroded the bank of the Umatilla River resulting in damage to archeological sites. Staff discussed the most recent finding in preparation for additional consultation with the US Army Corps of Engineers for continued in-stream work this year aimed at addressing the issue.

Prior Action by Commission: none

Action Requested: none

Attachments: none

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