

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 27, 2024

Agenda Item:	5c	Action
Public Comment Allowed:	Yes	
Topic:	Brian Booth – McKenzie River Trust	
Presented by:	Ladd Whitcomb, Property Agent	

Comprised of Ona Beach, Beaver Creek State Natural Area and more recently acquired property, Brian Booth State Park (Brian Booth) is located eight miles south of Newport and includes approximately 1,200 acres of wetlands, floodplains, creeks, estuaries, former pasture, and forested upland. Current development includes a visitor center, day use area, non-motorized boat launch, and hiking trails on the north side of Beaver Creek.

Although Lincoln County Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners approved the draft park master plan, the zone change required for expanded park development was denied in late 2019. While build-out of the envisioned campground on the south side of Beaver Creek may be delayed, the need for proactive management of the land and resources is ongoing.

McKenzie River Trust, based near Eugene, works with willing landowners to protect and care for land in western Oregon. They have acquired a parcel of land adjacent to the southwest boundary of Brian Booth State Park and would like to donate that property to OPRD.

Besides acting as a buffer to residential development to the west, this property affords access to a conifer plantation that was previously inaccessible by vehicle from any other part of the park. The Brian Booth draft master plan calls out the need to manage forest plantations for healthy growth, recreational setting, habitat, and fire control. This property will give us the access we need to effectively manage this otherwise isolated portion of the park.

Despite the lack of physical access from the McKenzie River Trust property to any portion of Brian Booth except for the immediately adjacent conifer stand, some of the neighboring landowners were concerned about the legal access this provides the remainder of Brian Booth. To ease their concerns over the possibility, or even the appearance to the recreating public, that this property provides access to the rest of Brian Booth we have offered to add more restrictive language to the access agreement and discussed the possibility of installing signage.

Staff recommends the Commission approve the acceptance of this donation property from McKenzie River Trust for employees and contractors to inspect and maintain our forest lands.

Prior Action by Commission: September 2023 Informational & November 2023 Action

Action Requested: Approve the acquisition and authorize the OPRD director to sign all necessary instruments effectuating the transaction.

Attachments: 5c - Attachment A1 – Map & 5c - Attachment A2 - Map

Prepared by: Ladd Whitcomb



