



What is SCORP?

SCORP is a rather strange sounding acronym which stands for Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Policy and Planning Section is currently in the process of developing such a plan for State of Oregon. Why should you as a public recreation provider be concerned about this thing called SCORP? Because successful completion of this plan will allow the state of Oregon to remain qualified for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. Created by Congress in 1964, the LWCF was established to provide financial support to land management agencies and provide matching grants to States. The LWCF program provides grants for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Nationally, LWCF has been responsible for the acquisition of nearly seven million acres of parkland and the development of 37,000 state and local park and recreation projects. Since 1965, the State of Oregon has received over \$49 million of LWCF funding. In addition, the SCORP will provide guidance to federal, state, and local units of government, as well as the private sector, in providing outdoor recreation resource opportunities in the State of Oregon. Perhaps now the acronym sounds a little less strange.

The Revival of Oregon SCORP Planning

The last Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for the state of Oregon was completed back in 1994. Unfortunately, funding and staffing reductions within OPRD and in the LWCF all but eliminated SCORP planning efforts in Oregon during the period from 1996-1999. In 2000, OPRD received funding from the state legislature to revive SCORP planning and prepare for Congressional reallocation of the LWCF. For the first time, OPRD has a full-time SCORP planner outside of the grant program. In September of 2001, OPRD received a 50/50 National Park Service (NPS) planning grant for completion of the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP plan. The NPS and the state of Oregon are making a strong financial commitment towards the development of a quality Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

The Planning Process

OPRD began the planning process in June 2000, by compiling and reviewing a large collection of current SCORP plans from across the country. During this review, we examined methodologies used in the evaluation of recreational supply, demand, public involvement, and needs assessment. The 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP plan will adapt the "best planning techniques" identified from these SCORP plans.

The 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP plan will include the following primary components.

- a regional planning approach,
- the Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreational Resource/Facilities Inventory,
- the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey,
- a regional and statewide needs assessment,
- planning assistance from the SCORP Advisory Committee, and
- a series of regional outdoor recreational issues meetings.

A Regional Planning Approach

An important objective of the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP plan is to provide usable planning information reflecting the diversity of outdoor recreation settings across the state. As a result, eleven SCORP planning regions have been identified to represent major outdoor recreation destination areas in the state. The final SCORP document will include statistically reliable recreation participation information and a needs assessment for each of the eleven planning regions. Key recreational issues will also be gathered for each planning region.

The Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreational Resource/Facilities Inventory

A comprehensive inventory of the supply of existing outdoor recreation resources and facilities is an essential tool for outdoor recreation planning in the state of Oregon. OPRD began work on the Statewide Recreational Resource/Facilities Inventory in the fall of 2000. (The data collection period ran from November 2000 through

August 2001.) Measurements for 45 individual resource/facility items from 1,622 public and private-sector recreation providers have been entered into an MS Access database. A publication entitled "The 2001 Oregon Statewide Outdoor Recreational Resource/Facilities Inventory Bulletin" will be sent out to all recreation providers across the state in October 2001.

The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey

What types of outdoor recreational activities are currently most popular with Oregon residents and tourists? What types of recreational trails are people using most? The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey will provide answers to these types of questions and more! The survey will examine the outdoor recreation patterns (for 76 recreation activities) of some 4,400 Oregonians and 800 tourists from nearby states. The survey is being conducted over a one-year period, from February 2001 to January 2002, by Oregon State University's College of Forestry. Statistically reliable information is being gathered for each of the eleven SCORP planning regions and statewide. The results of the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Survey will be featured in the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP plan.

A Regional and Statewide Needs Assessment

So now we have important statewide inventory and participation data. How do we use it? A central component of the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP plan will be a quantitative comparison of the supply of existing recreation resources and facilities with current outdoor recreation participation to identify recreational need. Recreational need is identified when the current level of recreation participation is found to exceed the current supply of recreation resources and facilities in a given area. The SCORP process involves such a recreational needs assessment for each of the eleven planning regions and statewide. In addition, 5-year needs assessments will be conducted using projected population increases.

SCORP Advisory Committee

OPRD staff, although extremely hardworking and dedicated, by no means claim to be experts on all facets of outdoor recreation provision in the state. To help bridge this knowledge gap, the SCORP Advisory Committee provides assistance with the SCORP planning process. The committee consists of 26 seasoned recreation professionals representing various organizations including local, state, federal and private-sector recreation providers, recreational user groups, and universities. The first SCORP Advisory Committee Meeting was held on July 31, 2001. A second meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 2002.

Regional Issues Meetings

Public involvement will play a central and recurring role throughout the Oregon SCORP planning process. Since the success of this process depends ultimately on the acceptance of the recreation roles and responsibilities by many public agencies, OPRD will make an effort to bring the widest possible range of those people affected by recreation decisions into the planning process. OPRD staff will conduct a series of eleven regional "recreational issues" meetings across the state. Each meeting will consist of an afternoon session open to all public recreation providers and an evening session open to the general public. The meetings will be held between October 25 and November 15, 2001. A copy of the [meeting schedule is included on the SCORP Planning Website](#). Meeting invitations will be sent to all public recreation providers in early October. We hope to see you there!

SCORP Planning Website

For current information about the 2003-2007 Oregon SCORP planning process, check out our website at <http://www.prd.state.or.us/scorp.html>. In addition, please check the website for upcoming quarterly SCORP planning newsletters (this is the last newsletter that will be mailed out in hard copy).