



Stub Stewart State Park

Update June 8, 2007

Location

On east side of Oregon Highway 47 between U.S. Highway 26 and Vernonia in Washington County. Entrance is four miles north of U.S. 26-Hwy. 47 intersection, just north of Buxton and south of Hoffman Road. The U.S. 26-Hwy. 47 intersection is 31 miles west of Portland. As many as 225,000 day-users and 81,000 campers are expected to visit the park every year after development is complete.

Size/geography

1,654 acres. Terrain is hilly and forested. Elevation at the park entrance is 730' above sea level. The horse camp is at 1,250'. The dominant geographical feature is Hares Canyon, which runs the length of the park. Five named creeks, including West Fork Dairy Creek along Highway 47, flow within the park's boundaries; the headwaters of several creeks, including Brooke Cr. and Williams Cr., are inside the park.

How acquired

Valued at approximately \$7.5 million at the time of acquisition, most of the park land was acquired through exchanges with the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Washington County, the Oregon Military Department, the Dept. of State Lands, the Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Longview Fibre Company and a private land owner. OPRD spent \$320,000 in Lottery funds to acquire land around the park.

Historical/significant attributes

- Hares Canyon was named for Joseph Coulson Hare, long-time Washington County resident who served as mayor of Hillsboro and operated a successful lumber business.
- 3.5 miles of the 22-mile Banks-Vernonia State Trail runs through the park between its Buxton Trailhead, near the park's south end, and Tophill Trailhead, one mile north of park. The trail was the first "Rails to Trails" park built in Oregon under the 1983 National Trails System Act.
- The campgrounds are the first built by the agency since Cape Blanco State Park opened in 1972.

Development philosophy

- Provide overnight camping for individuals and groups, and a system of day-use trails near the Portland metropolitan area;
- Design facilities that harmonize with the park's natural setting;
- Adhere to OPRD principles of sustainability (use recycled and renewable materials, manage waste water on-site, use solar heating for restroom water.)
- Preserve existing views of the Coast mountain range.

Facilities scheduled to open summer 2007

- **Stub Stewart Welcome Center**, including registration check-in window for campers, an interpretive area and park offices.
- **Brooke Creek hike-in camp** with 23 primitive sites, picnic tables, two restrooms, a kitchen shelter and two common areas with fire rings; located ½ mile from welcome center.
- **Dairy Creek Camp West**, the first of two campground loops, with 43 full-hookup (water, sewer, electric) RV sites and 12 walk-in tent sites.
- **Mountain Dale Cabin Village** with 15 rustic-style cabins (12, 1-room; 3, 2-room).
- **Hilltop Picnic Area** with parking for 35 cars and 10-15 RVs, modern restrooms and a trailhead for the park's trail system. Offers a panoramic view of Coast mountains.
- **Clayhill** equestrian staging and day-use area.

- **Hares Canyon Horse Camp**, with 14 full hookup campsites with four-stall corrals and two double-size full hookup sites with six-stall corrals. Only horse camp in the state park system with RV hookup sites and fully-accessible shower-restroom.

Camping rates (includes lodging taxes)		
	Oct. 1-Apr. 30	May 1-Sept. 30
Full-hookup RV sites	\$18	\$22
Walk-in tent sites	\$13	\$18
Hike-in tent sites	\$6	\$9
Cabins	\$39	\$39
Horse sites	\$18 single, \$31 double	\$22 single, \$40 double

Trails

The park will open with **15 miles of non-motorized trails** for hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. The trails will connect all visitor areas and the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, 3.5 miles of which run through the park.

Future visitor facilities

The park plan for the future includes:

- **Dairy Creek Camp East**, with 35 more full-hookup RV sites (open by spring 2008).
- **Group tent** camping area.
- **Group picnic** area with shelters.
- **Group lodge** at Mountain Dale Cabin Village.
- **Observation tower** for sightseers at Hilltop Picnic Area.
- **More trails**, including a single-track mountain bike trail.

Design and construction

OPRD contracted with **CH2MHill** of Portland for overall design and engineering services. Contractors for road, building and utility construction included **JAL Construction** of Bend, **Emery and Sons Construction** of Stayton and **Meng-Hannon Construction** of Portland.

Volunteers and community groups played a significant role in park development. **Boy Scout Troop 146** helped with hiking trails, and Eagle Scout candidates helped at the hike-in camp by installing site numbers, community fire rings and picnic tables.

The **Portland United Mountain Pedalers** (an affiliate of the International Mountain Biking Association), are helping design and build the upcoming single-track mountain bike trail, a first for the state park system.

Oregon Equestrian Trails installed rails, chain gates and corral posts in Hares Canyon Horse Camp.

The **Rollin' Roamers Good Sam Club** assembled about 100 picnic tables.

OPRD **volunteer park hosts** helped landscape, construct wood and manure bins, install campsite numbers and trail markers, and finished the maintenance shop, Welcome Center and cabin interiors.

Funding

2003-2005 biennium – \$3.5 million in Lottery funds; \$1 million from federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

2005-2007 biennium – \$11 million in Lottery funds and \$1.1 million from LWCF.