

# Draft of Oregon trails plan includes water routes and usual trails

A draft of the nation's first state recreation trails plan to deal with water routes as well as traditional hiking, bicycling and horseback uses is now online at <<http://egov.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/trailsplanning.shtml>> and available on CD from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

OPRD is inviting the public to review and comment on the plan by January 7, 2005.

Combined into a single volume,

the new water trails plan is packaged with updated plans for non-motorized trail uses and motorized recreation such as all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and off-highway motorcycle riding. "It's an information resource and a tool with recommendations to guide trail planning by state, federal, local and recreational organizations for the next five years," said OPRD Media Contact Terry Bergerson.

The water trails plan proposes

the creation of a statewide system of officially designated water trails connecting specific locations on lakes, rivers and the ocean. The trails would be primarily designed for small watercraft, such as canoes, sea and whitewater kayaks, rafts, rowboats and drift boats.

"The water trails plan addresses the growing interest in canoe, rafting, and kayak routes in Oregon and the potential conflicts, such as public access to navigable waterways, stemming from that inter-

est," said Bergerson. "It includes a program that would be the nation's first to deal with navigability laws and the public's right to use waterways for non-motorized boating."

Goals, objectives and strategies for all three elements of the plan emerged from a two-year planning process that included a statewide series of workshops and a statewide trail user survey. Separate steering committees for motorized, non-motorized and water trails advised OPRD planners through-

out.

Comments on the plan should be directed to Terry Bergerson, OPRD's project coordinator for the plan, by email <[terry.bergerson@state.or.us](mailto:terry.bergerson@state.or.us)> or by writing to OPRD, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301, Attn: Terry Bergerson. The CD may be obtained by phoning 503-986-0733, or by emailing <[tammy.baumann@state.or.us](mailto:tammy.baumann@state.or.us)>.

OPRD will use the plan to help administer federally funded Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and state ATV grants. States are required to develop trail plans to be eligible for matching RTP grants.

## Six teenagers charged with BHS, park, home burglaries

Six teenagers have been charged with multiple counts of burglary, including three burglaries at Banks High School this past October. The investigation of those three burglaries led detectives to a burglary of the Banks Sunset Park concession stand in September and to a residential burglary in Banks in August.

According to the Washington County Sheriff's Office, detectives believe that all of the teenagers were involved in one or more of the burglaries, and/or received stolen property associated with one or more of the burglaries.

Items taken during the burglaries at Banks High School included a DVD/VCR player, digital scales, a tarantula, an electronic microscope, a web cam, an arc welder, power tools, miscellaneous hand tools and other equipment.

Among the items stolen during the burglary at Sunset Park were baseball equipment, a commercial style cookie and pop corn maker and miscellaneous food.

Charged with multiple counts of burglary, theft and criminal mischief are two 14 year-old, a 15 year-old and 16 year-old boys.

In addition to the other charges, a 17 year-old boy also faces multiple counts of theft by receiving.

George Wood, 18, has been arraigned. The juveniles were referred to the Juvenile Department.

The suspects all live in the Banks or Buxton area and either had been or were students at Banks High School at the time of the burglaries. Most of the property was recovered and returned to the High School.

## Online course will help personal watercraft operators learn safety

Oregon's mandatory boater education compliance statistics for the 2004 season show that, of the 587 citations issued to boaters not carrying a boater education card, 49 percent were operators of personal watercraft (PWC), such as Jet Skis and Wave Runners. PWCs make up only about seven percent of Oregon's registered boats.

New operators are statistically the most at risk because most PWC accidents occur within the first 10 hours of operation. A PWC should not be loaned to a friend or relative who doesn't know the regulations.

Ashley Massey, education

coordinator for the Marine Board, said a new online safety course should help. "We have recently approved a new Internet course specifically for PWC operators, called 'PWC Safety School.com'," said Massey. "This course meets our mandatory education requirement and teaches safe, courteous and responsible operation. All PWC operators should take advantage of this or other approved courses so we can reduce accidents and citations issued to these operators."

The new PWC course, other courses and general boating information is available at the Marine Board website, <[www.boatingoregon.com](http://www.boatingoregon.com)>.

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