

GOAL 8: RECREATION NEEDS

General Discussion

To recognize the recreation needs of the citizens of the County and visitors.

The requirements for meeting such needs, now and in the future, shall be planned for by agencies having responsibility for recreation areas, facilities, and opportunities:

1. In coordination with private enterprise.
2. In such quantity, quality, and location as is consistent with availability of the resources to meet such requirements.

State and federal agency recreation plans shall be coordinated with local and regional recreation needs and plans when it is in the best interest of Klamath County.

Encourage the development of destination resorts on private lands in Klamath County identified by the County as eligible for destination resort siting.

Objectives

Continue to reevaluate County park and recreation plans to ensure that facilities and services meet existing and changing needs.

Encourage a variety of spectator and participant activities.

Encourage accessibility and availability of varied recreation activities to people of all ages including the disabled.

Encourage use of leisure time in creative, cultural, and recreative ways.

Encourage bicycle and hiking trails within the County.

Develop a County recreation plan that will address the needs of both urbanized centers and rural areas.

Definitions:

- Destination Resort refers to a self-contained development that provides for visitor-oriented accommodations and developed recreational facilities in a setting with high natural amenities. A destination resort must meet minimum standards of development established by statute.
- Recreation areas, facilities, and opportunities provide for human development and enrichment and include, but are not limited to: Scenic landscapes; recreation lands; historical, archaeological, and natural science resources; scenic roads and travelways; sports and cultural events; camping, picnicking and recreational lodging; tourist facilities and accommodations; trails; waterway use facilities; hunting; angling; winter sports; active and passive games and activities; and mineral resources.
- Recreation needs are existing and future demand by citizens and visitors for recreation areas, facilities, and opportunities.

1. POLICY: When planning for lands and resources capable of accommodating multiple uses, the County shall encourage the provision of appropriate recreation opportunities.

Rationale:

- To provide recreation opportunities when consistent with existing resources.

Implementation:

- The County will identify and study areas of multiple use that provide potential recreational opportunities.

2. POLICY: Parks and recreation sites may be acquired as needed.

Rationale:

- To avoid time-consuming and costly conflicts over use of designated park sites.
- To encourage compatible and complimentary development on adjacent parcels.

Implementation:

- The County shall allow park districts to acquire park sites in accordance with the plan.

3. POLICY: The County may encourage the acquisition in fee, or through assessments, of rights in land and water that will permit the protection, development, and management of public recreation use areas of adequate quality and carrying capacity conveniently located near urbanized areas.

Rationale:

- To provide accessibility to and availability of recreation activities to people of all age groups.
- To conserve energy associated with transportation by locating recreation facilities near existing urbanized areas (further Goal 13).

Implementation:

- The County shall support efforts to acquire potential public recreation areas outside of the Klamath Falls Urban Area.

4. POLICY: The County shall assist private investors seeking to establish new commercial recreation enterprises.

Rationale:

- To provide for the recreational needs of the citizens.
- To diversify and strengthen the County and State economy (furthers Goal 9).

Implementation:

- The County shall assist private investors in the search for suitable sites.
- The County shall coordinate road connections.
- The developer shall provide buffer areas and similar construction measures when appropriate.

5. POLICY: The County shall encourage the development of bike paths.

Rationale:

- To provide for the recreation needs of the County.
- To provide an alternative form of transportation (further Goal 12).
- To conserve energy (furthers Goal 13).

Implementation:

- The County shall continue to encourage the maintenance of the "A" Canal bike path.
- The County shall cooperate with local governments in preparing bikeway plans.

6. POLICY: The Country shall encourage the protection of recreation trails.

Rationale:

- To provide recreation opportunities.
- To afford citizen access to outstanding scenic views and sites (furthers Goal 5).

Implementation:

- The County shall cooperate with government agencies special districts, and citizens to protect identified recreation trails.
- The County shall continue to cooperate with other agencies with regard to the O C & E trail.

7. POLICY: The County shall support efforts to develop a Pelican Butte Winter Sports Area, provided such development considers the carrying capacity of the air, land, and water resources of the planning area.

Rational:

- To create additional jobs year round.
- To increase tourism and provide more convenient outdoor recreation opportunities for local citizens (furthers Goal 8).

Implementation:

- The County shall work with local agencies to assist in the development at Pelican Butte.

8. POLICY: The County shall support expansion of the boating and other lakeside facilities in the County Park at Eagle Ridge on Upper Klamath Lake.

Rationale:

- To create additional tourist use of the facility.
- To create additional jobs.

Implementation:

- The County will seek funding for proposed expansion from the U.S. Department of Interior's Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service and EDA.

9. POLICY: The County will encourage development of a recreation area on and around Lake Ewauna.

Rationale:

- To provide a training site for crew teams.
- To provide an area for canoeing, sail boating and other non-motorized water activities.
- To facilitate location of recreation sites within walking distance of existing motels and hotels (furthers Goals 8 and 14).
- To provide additional jobs related to the project.

Implementation:

- The County may study the economic feasibility of establishing rowing race course facilities at Lake Ewauna, to include a boathouse, parking, an access road, and a spectator viewing area.

10.POLICY: Maintenance and improvement of those public park and campground facilities located in Forestry and EFU designated lands shall be allowed.

Rationale:

- Recreation uses are allowed in EFU and Forestry zones.
- To encourage development of recreation facilities in those areas.

Implementation:

- The Land Development Code will permit maintenance and improvements of public parks and campgrounds in EFU and Forestry zones.

11.POLICY: Encourage the development of destination resorts on private lands in Klamath County, by mapping sites that are eligible and providing approval standards for destination resorts, consistent with statutory requirements.

Rationale:

- To take advantage of statutes that recognize that the best sites for destination resorts will often be on resource lands, and that allow counties to map sites that are eligible for siting of destination resorts without taking exceptions to statewide planning goals.
- To increase tourism (Goal 9) and diversify recreational opportunities for local citizens and visitors to the County.
- To provide additional jobs and investment in the County in connection with destination resorts.

Implementation:

- The County shall map all areas within Klamath County that are eligible for destination resort siting. In addition to the areas required by statute to be eliminated from eligibility, the County will also eliminate from eligibility the following lands: (1) publicly owned lands (i.e., lands owned by the federal government, the state, Klamath County, and any city government; and (2) lands zoned Open Space and Conservation (OS&C).
- The map of eligible sites shall become part of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code and shall be an overlay zone designated Destination Resort Overlay (DRO). The map shall not be revised except in connection with periodic review.
- The Land Development Code will permit development of destination resorts within areas designated as eligible on the map. Destination resort development shall be subject to development standards and approval procedures to ensure that destination resorts satisfy statutory requirements and do not have significant adverse impacts on surrounding lands.