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REVISED 1990

STATE AGENCY COORDINATION

PROGRAM

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SECTION I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (Department) is a state agency that carries out the programs and policies of the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission). The Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor. It is the function of the State Parks and Recreation Commission to promote the policy of this state toward outdoor recreation resources identified in ORS 390.010 and to establish the policies for the operation of the State Parks and Recreation Department in a manner consistent with the policies and purposes of its primary statute, ORS 390. In addition, the Commission performs any other duties vested in it by law.

B. Parks and Recreation Department's State Agency Coordination Program (SAC)

Oregon law (ORS 197.180) requires each state agency to prepare a coordination program for review and certification by the state Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC).

The 1987 legislature amended the requirements for SAC in ORS 197.180. The LCDC adopted two rules to implement the SAC statute, OAR Chapter 660, Division 30 and Division 31. These requirements were established to coordinate and support the appropriate use and development of lands, resources and facilities; to minimize and resolve land use conflicts involving local governments and state agencies; and to promote the coordinated implementation and revision of acknowledged comprehensive plans.

The law requires state agencies to :

- 1. provide an overview of all department programs and identify which programs or actions can reasonably be expected to significantly affect land use;**
- 2. establish rules and procedures for assuring such programs or actions comply with the statewide planning goals and are compatible with acknowledged local comprehensive land use plans;**

3. **adopt procedures for coordination with state and federal agencies and special districts; and**
4. **cooperate with and provide technical assistance to local governments.**

An underlying intent of Oregon's comprehensive land use legislation is the principle that many of the state's land use, resource management, and economic development goals can be achieved through local comprehensive planning. Although the law requires that the state agencies comply with the statewide goals, the emphasis of the program is clearly on local plans. Cities and counties are expected to take state needs into account when developing their plans, but the burden is on state agencies to make their needs known during plan preparation and revision.

While the state relies on local plans to meet many state objectives, state law does recognize the separate authority of state agencies in managing certain resources, and the several statewide goals give specific direction to some agencies.

Without necessary funds to staff sufficiently, the ability to participate and follow through with "making the agency's needs known" to cities and counties and to implement to the level required during the plan development process and periodic review becomes a less than desirable planning process.

The Department recognizes that education, information and technical assistance are the keys to understanding and supporting the finite resources that are the foundation for Outdoor Recreation. However, there are few funds available to implement that goal. No State funds have replaced the loss of federal funds that enabled the Department to provide some technical assistance ten years ago. This is particularly important to the state because statutory obligations and interests of a state agency in managing resources may be different from the interests of a city or a county. Resources which were plentiful, or taken for granted, incompletely inventoried or not planned for at all during the time of acknowledgement, become even more important at the time of periodic review. Resolving complex zoning issues, providing for an adequate resource base and developing cooperative partnerships to implement sometimes very visionary plans are very difficult for inadequately financed state and local planning efforts.

To ease the problems of a lack of funds, it is essential to have as well coordinated of a planning process as possible. It is only through these developed partnerships that the state's missions, policies and goals will be fully realized.

