GOAL 8: RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Goal: To satisfy the recreation needs of the citizens of the state and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities including destination resorts.

FINDINGS:

1. Statewide Comprehensive Outlook Recreation Plan (SCORP) Report dated 2008-2012: No new parks or recreation facilities are planned for Gilliam County; however, there is some updated statistical data set forth in said report which is hereby adopted by reference and is set forth as an attachment hereto.

2. It is the policy of Gilliam County to encourage and assist appropriate public agencies in the acquisition and development of the following recreation sites on the John Day River:
   
   A) In the upper portion of the John Day Dam reservoir, support efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop trails in an area now designated by the Corps for fish and wildlife use;
   
   B) At the mouth of Rock Creek, encourage the acquisition of about fifteen acres, involving about 200 yards of river frontage, and development of a boat ramp, parking area, camping, picnicking and sanitary facilities;
   
   C) Encourage the further development of the Oregon Trail 4-H Club site through the addition of sanitary facilities.
   
   D) Gilliam County acknowledges and approves of the plans of the Oregon State Highway Division Parks and Recreation Branch for development of J.S. Burres State Park.

   The adoption of policy statement 2 in no way infers that the county government will assume a role of leadership in the development of these smaller and more isolated public recreation sites. Neither do they imply that the County government can or should become actively engaged in the maintenance or policing of these types of recreation areas. Rather, it is the intent of these policy statements to suggest that the powers and influence of the county government will be utilized to insure the permanent availability and development of these sites for public recreation use.

3. The State Highway Division owns one state park and two state waysides within the County; and Oregon Parks Department owns a large state park:

   A) The J.S. Burres State Park is a 13.2-acre tract located along the John Day River at Cottonwood Bridge (Oregon Route 206);
B) Dyer Wayside is a 0.6-acre parcel at Ramsey Canyon on State Route 19, south of the City of Condon. This wayside park is equipped with picnic facilities, rest rooms and parking area, was upgraded in 1999, and is maintained by volunteers from Gilliam and Wheeler Counties;

C) Arlington Wayside is a 191-acre park site located between the Columbia River Highway (I-84N) and the Columbia River, approximately two miles east of Arlington. The site is presently undeveloped.

D) Cottonwood State Park is located adjacent to J.S. Burres State Park and encompasses approximately 8,000 acres. At the time of this up-date, there are no facilities, but planned development includes rustic campsites, and at the homestead, cabins and an interpretative center.

4. Columbia River recreation areas in three locations are shown on the Comprehensive Plan Map. All three of these areas are owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is the policy of the County to encourage their retention and development for purposes of general public access to the Columbia River Recreation resource.

5. The County is reported as offering various dispersed recreational opportunities, including golf, the John Day Scenic Waterway, public parks and campgrounds. Drift and power-boating, canoeing, rafting, and kayaking are reported as popular in that area of the John Day River.

POLICIES:

1. Private recreational development, including a variety of overnight accommodations, should be permitted in locations that will not conflict with surrounding land uses and where adequate services are available.

2. Gilliam County shall allow, as a permitted use, minor betterment rehabilitation, and repair of existing public parks where these activities do not impair park visitation or the use of neighboring properties.

3. Private development should not be permitted if it would block access to or otherwise have a significant adverse impact on public open space lands.

4. Encourage the development of bicycle, equestrian and hiking trails and facilities

5. Provide opportunities for destination resorts that will include developed recreational facilities and overnight lodging for tourists.
6. Destination resorts should only be allowed within areas shown on the “Destination Resort Map of Eligible Lands” when in compliance with requirements of Goal 8 and ORS 197.435 to 197.467. Applications to amend the map will be collected and will be processed concurrently no sooner than 30 months from the date the map was previously adopted or amended.

7. Only those uses and activities allowed by ORS 197.445 should be permitted as part of a destination resort. Developed recreational facilities and key facilities intended to serve the entire development and visitor oriented accommodations must be physically provided or guaranteed through surety bonding or equivalent financial assurances prior to closure of sale of individual lots.

8. Destination resorts should be compatible with the site and adjacent land uses and should not place inordinate demands on the service structure of the County or on other public utilities or special districts.

9. It is to be expected that commercial establishments catering to recreation needs will desire to locate adjacent to the major recreation developments in the county. Since such enterprises would add not only to the economic development of the county, but also to the full enjoyment of the recreation resource, it is the policy of Gilliam County to promote their development in a manner consistent with the preservation of the basic character of the resource they are intended to serve. Types of establishments locating in these areas will be of secondary concern; primary emphasis will be given to the quality and character of development. Areas in which such developments could best fulfill these objectives are shown on the Comprehensive Plan Map as Rural Unincorporated Community Zone areas.

10. It is expected that in time, pressure will develop for creation of recreation home sites in the county. Since the County is not in a position to provide the public services that eventually may be required by these uses, it is the policy of Gilliam County to discourage such developments unless it is convincingly demonstrated that they will not conflict with the basic agricultural land use policy as provided by ORS 215.243 and that adequate provisions for community water supply and sewage disposals are made independent of any existing community system.

Findings in Support of Goal 8:

1. Inventories of recreational sites and opportunities have been completed to ensure that Gilliam County satisfies the recreation needs of its citizens and visitors and, where appropriate, to provide for the siting of necessary recreational facilities including destination resorts.