



ORCA: Oregon Coast Alliance
Protecting the Oregon Coast

P.O. Box 857, Astoria OR 97103
(503) 391-0210
www.oregoncoastalliance.org

August 5, 2016: Tillamook County Commissioners Workshop on Bayocean Spit

1. The best future for Bayocean Spit is for Tillamook County to donate its Bayocean land (more than 90% of the Spit) to OPRD for a state park. This will ensure comprehensive protection for the Spit in the future. Details to be worked out in the negotiation process of exchange lands and any other compensation involved.
2. Bayocean Spit has grown in popularity over the years, and continues to do so. The Spit is becoming degraded from heavy use. OPRD would have money to deal with situations that need attention, ranging from a bathroom in the parking lot to keeping the second gate locked per Tillamook County requirements.
3. Given the Spit's current state and past history, it should be a State Natural Area, with minimal intrusions and no developments (such as campgrounds). This is in line with community needs, ecological fragility and current use. Details to be worked out in the Park Master Plan process.
4. The County should place a conservation easement on the lands it is donating to OPRD that restrict use to those appropriate for a natural area (e.g., passive recreation) and prohibit future developments, including parks-related developments such as campgrounds and enlarged parking lots.
5. The County, OPRD, conservation groups and a land trust in collaboration need to approach the three large (over 10 acres) landowners on the Spit to explore means of purchasing their lands for conservation. Development opportunities are extremely limited on the Spit due to lack of sanitary infrastructure, water, emergency services and public roads. In addition, Spit development is restricted by FEMA and floodplain requirements.
6. OPRD would work with the small ownerships on the Spit to maintain them as inholdings in the Park so families that have long enjoyed owning a piece of the Spit may continue without causing conflict to the park. The Udenby/Stellflug property near Cape Meares is being separately purchased via a County-North Coast Land Conservancy partnership.
7. The US Army Corps of Engineers owns the northern part of the Spit where the South Jetty is, and also has perpetual easements over Dike Road for maintenance and repair. Both of these functions would continue uninterrupted.