

Rogue River Access and Management Plan – Table Rock Reach
Public Open House
5/15/12 Meeting Notes
(55 people signed in)

This was the first public open house for the Rogue River Access and Management Plan. The planning process will address the recreation use and access on public lands from Givan Ranch to Nugget Falls. The primary goals are (1) to plan for safe access to the river and surrounding lands and (2) to educate and direct recreation users to use appropriate public lands while deterring use on private lands or unsuitable public lands.

The first quarter of the meeting was spent reviewing a PowerPoint presentation on the background and purpose of the project, core planning team and National Park Service planning assistance grant, project timeline, decision process and committee engagement, vision and goals for the project, and the changing uses of the Rogue River. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached. In addition to multiple open houses, a Citizens Advisory Group, Technical Advisory Committee, and core planning group will also be addressed in the planning process. The goal is to reach decisions by consensus, where possible, with the ultimate decision being made by the individual public land manager of the lands under consideration for development.

The second half of the meeting was spent soliciting feedback from the public via small group workstations regarding what uses and conflicts they are currently seeing on the river. Below are the notes that were captured at the meeting. Comments are listed (as submitted on chart paper by the public) below each question.

Entire Planning Reach

Why do you choose to recreate in this area? What do you most value about this area? What makes for an enjoyable experience?

- Great birdwatching opportunities
- Quiet due to limited access
- Limited hunting
- Good fishing- power boat and drift boat
- Close to home, easy access
- Good winter equestrian use
- Not clay- good soils for winter equestrian use
- Open to duck hunting and fur trapping

What detracts from an enjoyable experience? What do you see as challenges for this planning project?

- Preserving wilderness characteristics is a challenge
- People leaving/dumping trash
- Noise from dredging
- Lack of public access for fishing
- Running out of gas for dredge

Are there conflicts already occurring in the planning reach? If so, what, when, where, why, who?

- Dredging at Gold Ray Dam site
- Too many dredges
- Dredging in river channel
- Dredges too small and taking too long to get rich

How do you feel about the level of use/crowding/noise level currently? Does this change by season of use/time of week and day?

- Noise from dredging, June – September day time hours excessive

What types of desired recreational experiences (activities, skill level, setting) would you like to see on the river in the future in this reach?

- More trails for birding
- Limit noise pollution
- Hiking trail on west side from TouVelle to dam site
- Equestrian trails- trail access, turnaround, parking and trails map
- Fishing via jet or drift boat- sanitary facilities and boat ramps

Reach1: Givan Ranch to Touvelle State Park

What type of recreational park development would you like to see at Givan Ranch?

- Birding trails
- Equestrian trails
- Walk in and wade fishing areas
- Restrooms
- Bank fishing
- Boat in camping
- Horse trails
- Connect Denman to Givan with equestrian trails- trail maps, trailer parking, turnaround, access, Little Butte safe crossing for equestrian use
- Identify and remove/report river hazards
- Opposed to jet boats

What are your thoughts about putting a boat ramp in this reach?

- No- because it is self-regulating
- Yes- Below Rattlesnake, longer stretch now, want to run shorter stretch
- Yes- at Givan, not all drift boats are able to run Rattlesnake

Reach 2: Touvelle State Park to Gold Ray Natural Area

How do you use this reach now compared to before the dam was removed?

- Prior to removal the use was extremely limited

What changes in use patterns have you seen in this section?

- Hunting issues arising
- There needs to be trails for birding close to the river
- Jet boat use increasing, issues with residents downstream
- Section now open for drift boats

Reach 3: Gold Ray Natural Area to Nugget Falls

How do you use this reach now compared to before the dam was removed?

- Please improve access at ODOT rock pit for take out. Perfect 7 mile float from TouVelle and can work out a cooperative agreement and improvement at very little cost. Provides safe out before Hayes Falls. Fishers Ferry is not practical for much improvement. Narrow road is hard to improve, plus high area of vandalism and homeless camps

What changes in use patterns have you seen in this section?

- No hunting or target shooting
- Noise abatement regs for dredgers
- Equestrian trails and access facilities
- Horse trails
- Too much dredging

What are your thoughts on putting a boat ramp in this reach before the rapids (Nugget Falls)/motorized and non-motorized?

- There is a crude access at ODFW lands at Dowden
- Corner of Blackwell Road and Upper River Road needs to be fixed for better traffic flow. When fishing gets good the traffic increases. Upper River Road needs a speed limit.
- Too many dredgers
- Need a safe boat ramp
- Enforcement issues
- Good idea
- Put a Takelma sized boat ramp at Gold Ray site on HWY 234 side. Easiest and quickest place to put an improved ramp
- Downstream of Upper River Road, the residents will be severely impacted. Additional use means; more traffic, speeding traffic, dangerous corner at Blackwell and upper River Road, fire danger, homeless, littering