

## OSMB Six-Year Facilities Plan Process

The Six-Year Plan is compiled by the Marine Board to identify and prioritize public recreational boating facility needs throughout the state of Oregon, and to plan for funding and implementation of the recommended improvements. The Six-Year Plan will be used by the Board (governing body) and other governmental agencies as a guide to determine priorities for facility improvements to assist boaters in gaining access to Oregon's waterways.

The 2005-2011 Six-Year Plan has continued prioritizing and categorizing of principally motorized, mixed use and non-motorized boating facilities. The previous plan was the first attempt to capture boating needs by classification of boating facilities. The Six-Year Plan is developed to ensure the most comprehensive look at public boating access needs statewide.

The focus of the Six-Year Plan is limited to *public* boat access sites and related facility developments that provide direct benefits to recreational boaters. These facilities include launch ramps, pole slides, carry down trails, transient tie-up facilities, restrooms, access roads, parking and boarding floats. **All boat waste collection facility needs are addressed in a separate plan entitled *State of Oregon Boat Waste Disposal Plan for Inland and Coastal Waters 2001-2006*.**

Specifically *not* included in the Six-Year Plan are privately owned boating facilities, public marinas and long-term tie-up slips, public access sites operated by concessionaires for profit, picnic shelters, trails, and campgrounds.

The needs identified in the Six-Year Plan represent a wide variety of boat access site improvements at existing access sites and the proposed development of new sites. The list of site needs indicates the magnitude of investment required to provide adequate, safe, and accessible facilities for recreational boaters statewide. Estimated development and improvement costs are based on site information provided by site managers using Marine Board standard unit costs. Actual development costs may vary depending on final design, permit requirements and future inflation.

The need for boating access sites in terms of available launch lanes and parking spaces far exceeds the current supply in many locations around the state, especially near large urban areas. Boat registrations continue to increase placing considerable pressure at existing access sites and intensifying use on many waterways. Priority consideration will be given to the rehabilitation and expansion of existing sites, followed by the development of new sites to help disperse use, reduce user conflicts and improve user satisfaction. In many cases existing sites are already developed to full capacity in terms of available public land for trailer parking, one of the most limiting factors.

### **Implementation**

The Six-Year Plan will be used by the Board in the allocation of Facility Grant funds available to governmental agencies to improve public boat access sites statewide and provide guidance to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in allocating federal Sport Fish Restoration funds for motor boat access. Additionally, the Six-Year Plan is intended to fulfill the requirements of the 1998 Wallop/Breaux Reauthorization which encourages states to conduct a public boat access needs survey and plan.

Based on available grants, matching funds and other funding sources, high and medium priority needs will be considered for funding first. The total estimated cost identified in the Six-Year Plan far exceeds the amount of public funds expected to be available by all sources in the next six years. Based on historic levels of available public funds targeted to motorized access sites and facilities, approximately 40 percent of the principally motorized access needs identified in the Six-Year Plan can be completed by 2011. For mixed use sites, only about 25 percent of the needs are expected to be completed, as funds provided by registered boaters will cover only half of the outstanding needs. It is anticipated that only one to five percent of the non-motorized access needs identified can be accomplished, as no statewide funding program currently exists.

## **Methodology**

The development of the 2005-2011 Six-Year Plan was a six-month effort involving two full-time Facilities Program staff members and a considerable amount of information and assistance of boaters and facility providers statewide. Using previous Six-Year Plans as a foundation, this Six-Year Plan is a compilation of information gathered from boaters, facility providers, site inventories, relevant documents and staff knowledge. The Marine Board performed the following tasks to adequately assess the needs of Oregon's public boat access sites:

- developed and distributed boat facility user and provider surveys to collect specific site improvement needs, overall maintenance conditions and types of boats used;
- conducted eleven regional public information meetings to gather input from interested boaters and facility providers regarding site specific boat access needs and management issues;
- collected and analyzed background data, including boat registrations, boat usage and boater profiles;
- compared results from surveys and public meetings with other related public boat access plans to ensure a comprehensive list of site needs;
- analyzed boat access supply and demand, as well as constraints and opportunities for development; and
- compiled boat access site improvement needs, including preliminary cost estimates and priority rankings for each site.

The Marine Board elected to follow the above planning process of involving the boating public through surveys and meetings, a survey of facility providers, review of relevant plans and input from staff to ensure the most comprehensive needs assessment. Due to funding and time constraints, it was not possible to perform individual site surveys on more than 700 public access sites.

The final plan is expected to be published and released March 2005, with immediate effectiveness.