

BUENA VISTA
A
CURRY COUNTY
OCEAN WAYSIDE

The Buena Vista Ocean Wayside is situated on the Oregon Coast Highway between Mile Posts 353.70 and 354.67; its north end three miles south of Gold Beach and one mile south of the Hunter Creek bridge. It is described as being in Section 13, Township 37 South, Range 15 West, W.M., Curry County, Oregon, containing fifty two acres. The deed dates are January 28 and October 22, 1930, and April 30, 1931. From the south end of the park, northward along the shore line, three narrow government lots are still in private ownership. The State owned land touches the ocean only along the north unit subdivision.

PHYSIOGRAPHY. Most of the tract lies between the highway and the ocean, the area being a rather rough type of picturesque shoreland, with much of its elevated front dropping abruptly to the sea as it alternates between out-looking points and steeply descending ravines. On the opposite side of the highway, ridges and gulches break away toward the Hunter Creek valley in an irregular pattern. At the north end of the tract there is a low, open depression, where the highway curves sharply to a sea view parking place, at the north end of a rising ridge. About half of the distance southward, is an open spot that drops steeply to the seashore a few hundred feet below. In this opening there is a small parking space beside the highway.

As an ocean wayside, the tract preserves a bit of Curry County's scenic shore land, and retains the esthetic values that border the highway. Generally, it is not adaptable for recreational use or roadside development.

FOREST. The forest cover is of the ordinary, non-commercial, coastal type, but does have a high, present and potential value for stabilizing the shaly slopes above and below the constructed highway. There are intervals of open

land on the steep seaward side, where wandering, unattended, flocks of sheep find sustenance amidst the abundant wild iris, fern clusters and minor shrubbery. They alarm motorists by taking their mid-day siestas along the highway shoulders, ewes and lambs alike, utterly indifferent to the motor vehicles that pass only inches away from them.

For a number of years, a small band of Roosevelt elk frequented this locality and were often seen browsing near the highway, or on the slopes of the upper hillsides. Altho hunting is prohibited in state parks, these noble animals scarcely maintain their numbers in this locality, where they were once quite abundant.

IMPROVEMENTS. This ocean wayside has no park facilities of any kind. The only improvements were fire breaks, fire hazard reduction, roadside cleanup, and grading off an ocean side parking space at the north end of the tract. This affords a pleasant view of the limited Hunter Creek valley and a lengthy coast-wise view. All the improvements were made by members of the Gold Beach CCC Camp in three periods between October 1933 and May 1935.

A bit of CCC Camp history attaches to the grading of this parking place, originally known as a "gold-bricker's" job.

Newly promoted to a "leader", a camp member was placed in charge and given a crew of selected shirkers to do the job. Being ambitious, and irked by the odium that attached to himself as well as his crew, he tactfully explained the situation to them. They rose to the occasion, became imbued with their "leader's" enthusiasm, and took upon themselves the task of disciplining any new recruit who proved to be recalcitrant and impress upon him the error of his ways. In only one instance was it necessary to resort to physical action, and the victim was only too glad to adjust himself to the principles of the crew and share its commendation.

The continued efficient performance of this crew became a camp topic, and the morale of all the work units improved.

W. A. Langille

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State Parks Historian

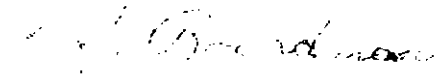
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January 29, 1946

RECOMMENDATIONS

This park wayside should be kept for ocean vista wayside purposes. There is one parking area at this time. One other should be made. Stock piles on the park should be removed. A small private ownership on the ocean side dividing the park should be purchased. Roads now cutting up the park should be eliminated.

SHE:ss

1-27-47


S. H. Boardman,
State Parks Superintendent