



**AGENDA CHECKLIST**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
(Page 2 of 5)

---

**DATE OF MEETING:**

August 21, 2001

**TITLE OF AGENDA ITEM:**

Adoption of Beazell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan

**IDENTIFIED SALIENT ISSUES:**

Background

Fred Beazell designated Benton County to be the beneficiary of this wonderful resource prior to his death on April 16, 2000. The Board of Commissioners officially accepted this gift on July 18, 2000. At this meeting, the Beazell Estate recommended that the name of this resource be: **The Beazell Memorial Forest, established in memory of his wife, Dolores, by A. Fred Beazell, July 18, 2000**, which was approved by the Board. In his Will, Mr. Beazell had indicated the name of this resource to be: **Dolores May (Anthony) Beazell Memorial Forest**.

Note: The following statements, included in the Beazell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan, are taken from a document produced by Bob Latham from Duck Creek Associates, Inc. The Beazell Estate funded this report in order to establish some clear guidelines for the development and operation of the Memorial Forest. [Copy enclosed]

- “While the gift was considerable (near six million dollars), Mr. Beazell clearly understood that the County could not accept a gift that would impose a financial burden on future tax payers. It was intended that the property be self-supporting.
- He was reconciled to the reality that cutting trees was the only feasible way to pay for property operating costs.
- Maximizing timber production was **not** to become a dominant objective. His primary objective for the resource was to provide nature oriented public access on a day-use basis.
- He was willing to leave decisions about tree cutting and property operations to County managers, including ‘how much was enough’ revenue to be generated. He clearly wanted to minimize the necessary cutting, to keep it as ecologically sound and environmentally sensitive as possible, and to use the revenue only for **this** property.”

Development of the Plan

In October 2000, Benton County Parks advertised a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for assistance in developing a Stewardship Management Plan for the property. Packets were also sent to several consultants who specialize in this work. ITS (Individual Tree Selection) Management, Inc. was awarded the contract to work with Benton County to develop the Beazell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan.

**AGENDA CHECKLIST**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**(Page 3 of 5)**

---

The public involvement process was as follows:

An expansive mailing list was established and used to inform the public of the planning process and the meetings.

**March 14, 2001** Park Board public meeting at Kings Valley Community School. ITS Management consultants presented background and base information (approximately 30% Plan development) for public review and feedback (minutes of the meeting are in the Plan Appendices).

**April 7, 2001** Public Tour on Site. County Parks staff and ITS Management, Inc. presented management objectives while touring the resource. (No minutes were recorded of the site tour)

**April 11, 2001** Park Board public meeting in regular meeting room in the Avery Facility. ITS Management Inc presented the 50% Plan to Park Board members and the public for review and discussion (minutes of the meeting are in the Plan Appendices).

**May 9, 2001** Park Board public meeting at Kings Valley Community School. ITS Management, Inc. presented the 90% Plan to the Park Board and public for further review and discussion (minutes of the meeting are in the Plan Appendices).

**June 23, 2001** 100% Draft Plan Review on Site. ITS and Park staff presented the 100% Draft Plan to the public and toured the site while discussing Plan objectives. (No minutes were recorded of the review and site tour)

**July 6, 2001** Final public comments to 100% draft were due.

**July 11, 2001** Park Board public meeting in regular meeting room in the Avery Facility. ITS Management Inc presented the draft Management Plan to the Park Board and the public for further feedback (minutes of the meeting are available in the Parks Department).

**August 2, 2001** ITS Management, Inc. made changes to the 100% Draft Plan and delivered the Final Draft Plan to the Parks Department.

PROCESS FOR ADOPTING BEAZELL MEMORIAL FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Staff recommends the Board of Commissioners adopt the Plan, if it meets their approval. Once the Plan is adopted, Parks staff can begin management operations on site, specifically targeting: "Prescribed activities including thinning of 20-45 year old Douglas-fir for oak release, forest health, and timber quality improvement; construction of associated forest management roads; tree topping and herbicide injection for snag creation; and tree clearing for meadow reclamation." (Taken from ITS Proposal for forest stewardship operations, dated August 6, 2001, attached as accompanying document) Revenue and cost figures for the ITS proposal are being developed.

**AGENDA CHECKLIST**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**(Page 4 of 5)**

---

Under the Benton County Development Code, the park and recreational elements of the Beazell Memorial Forest need to be processed either as a Conditional Use Permit within a Forest Conservation Zone; or through a Zone Change from Forest Conservation to Open Space. Staff of the Parks and Community Development Departments recommend the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process. This recommendation is based on the fact that the Forest Conservation Zone more clearly designates the use of this site – forestry related management activities with opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. A Conditional Use Permit is currently being completed by Parks staff, and a date tentatively set for October 2, 2001, for the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing on this application. Once a Planning Commission decision has been made, and it is approved, the Parks Department will initiate the park development elements, which will allow the site to be opened to the public for day use. The County Public Works engineers and Parks staff are currently preparing Park development plan specifications. Park road and parking lot construction could begin in October 2001, weather permitting.

*Beazell Memorial Forest Plan, page 1-2 to 1-3*

The purpose of this plan is to enable and help implement the vision of Fred Beazell and Benton County. It will guide Parks Department managers in the development of visitor facilities, and in the integrated and ongoing management of site resources. Because the property has an active stewardship focus — protection as well as active management — baseline information is required on the full array of site resources, as a means of gauging progress towards protection and restoration goals. Accurate resource information and comprehensive management policies are critical to ensure the responsible and long-term stewardship of this extraordinary property.

The plan also responds to the County’s overall strategic mission of “making Benton County a better place to live,” and the overarching goal to “promote a safe and nurturing environment where families and individuals can thrive and prosper.” In particular, the plan addresses the mission of the Parks Department:

“Benton County Parks Department serves the interests and pursuits of Benton County and residents by providing access to natural, historic, and recreational areas and conserving, restoring, and developing parkland investments.”

Specifically, the Plan serves to:

- inventory and assess property resources
- guide facility development and property management
- describe resource management practices to be used
- provide a comprehensive policy framework to guide future management decisions
- establish monitoring and evaluation protocols

**AGENDA CHECKLIST**  
**BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**(Page 5 of 5)**

Bezell Memorial Forest Plan, page 2-1

**Management Statement**

The Bezell Memorial Forest will be managed for environmental education and research opportunities.

As a demonstration forest and open space area, progressive ecosystem management practices will be used to protect, conserve, and restore the natural, scenic, outdoor recreation, and wildlife values of the site.

Emphasis will be placed on restoring the Douglas-fir/oak forest and oak savanna ecosystems through conservation-based forest management, as well as accommodating passive day-use recreation such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and scenic enjoyment.

The desired future forest will feature mixed species stands of older, larger trees, with sufficient harvesting and regeneration to assure adequate younger stands to balance the age of the forest.

Built facilities will be minimal, primarily designed to support public access, parking, and visitor information, including environmental and cultural education. Development and operation of the park will be at little or no cost to taxpayers.

**OPTIONS:**

- 1.) Adopt the Bezell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan, and direct Parks staff to file an application for a Conditional Use Permit within a Forest Conservation Zone for the purpose of developing the public day-use Park.
- 2.) Adopt the Bezell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan with proposed changes, and direct Parks staff to file an application for a Conditional Use Permit within a Forest Conservation Zone for the purpose of developing the public day-use Park.
- 3.) Do not adopt the Plan and ask Parks Staff to come back to the Board with additional information or alternative process.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Bezell Memorial Forest is a self-sustaining resource. Funds for the facility will be derived from timber sales associated with forest resource improvements and activities. Some of the revenue produced from the August 6, 2001 Stewardship Operations Proposal (document enclosed) will be used to pay back the current loan that was used to develop the Bezell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the Bezell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan, and direct Parks Department staff to apply for a Conditional Use Permit in the Forest Conservation Zone for the purpose of developing a day-use Park.

**SUGGESTED MOTION(S):**

I move the Board of Commissioners sign the Order to adopt the Bezell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan, and direct Parks staff to apply for a Conditional Use Permit in the Forest Conservation Zone for the purpose of developing a day-use Park.

BEFORE THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting the Beazell Memorial ) ORDER  
Forest Stewardship Management Plan )

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Benton County Parks Advisory Board authorize that committee to initiate advice to the Benton County Board of Commissioners based on observations of park operations, public concerns as expressed to the committee, concerns of individual committee members, and Parks Department staff input; and

WHEREAS, consideration of these observations, concerns and input has led the Parks Advisory Board to propose the Beazell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED:

That the Beazell Memorial Forest Stewardship Management Plan, attached hereto and incorporated by this reference, shall be, and hereby is, adopted.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counsel