

Association of Oregon Counties and Oregon Parks Association



SENATE BILL 331 HEARING 2/14/13

**SENATE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Oregon's County Parks



- Most of Oregon's counties have county park systems
- Major provider of Oregon parks
- Manage nearly the same amount of campsites as OPRD
- Provide an affordable source of inland recreation
- Important for state's economy



Counties' Challenges (and opportunities)



- **Counties in crisis mode**
 - Has lead to increased innovations in Parks
- **Growing backlog of deferred maintenance**
- **Reductions in service levels**
- **How big is the problem?**



An Assessment- State of Your County Parks



- **ECONorthwest report**
- **Key findings on county parks**
 - Play an important role across Oregon
 - Have large backlogs of deferred maintenance
 - Facing their own “fiscal cliff”
 - Need stable funding to address maintenance needs in urban and rural counties



Deferred Maintenance Needs



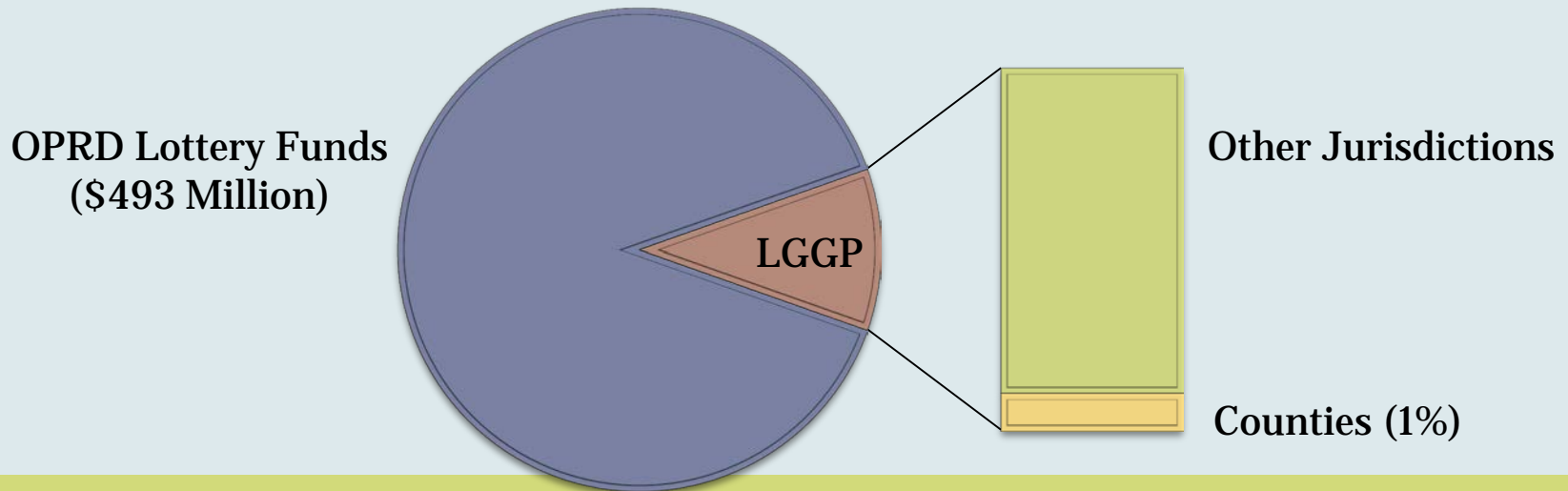
- Over \$80 million in deferred needs
- OPRD faced similar concerns prior to dedicated Lottery funding
- OPRD has achieved 76% reduction in original State Parks backlog
- All visitors are effected
- Hinders path towards sustainability



County Park Budgets in Decline



- **Changing sources of revenues**
 - 53% decrease in General Fund support
- **Capital spending strictly dependent upon grants**
- **Counties have limited funds for “matching grants”**
- **Access to Lottery funding is limited**



How does SB 331 help?



- No action results in loss of \$823,000 annually to counties in 2015
- 50%/50% split of RV licensing fees with OPRD
- \$2.5 million increase to counties annually
 - Includes County Opportunity Grant Program
- A step forward in partnering with financially distressed counties
- Keep counties on a path towards sustainable park operations
- Maintains affordable local recreation opportunities!

