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Governor Neil Goldschmidt Comments on Renaming Bob Straub State Park

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Governor Neil Goldschmidt announced today his selection of an ad hoc "Friends of Bob Straub" committee to seek the naming of a state park for the former Governor and long-time conservationist.

Goldschmidt proposed that the Nestucca Spit State Park, at Pacific City in southern Tillamook County, be re-named the Bob Straub State Park. The committee will make that request at the State Transportation Commission's July 21 meeting in Salem. The Nestucca Spit, itself, would keep its geographic name.

Two other coastal state parks are already named for Oregon governors -- Oswald West in northern Tillamook County and Isaac Patterson in southern Lincoln County. The 1987 Legislature also designated the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River as the Victor G. Atiyeh Deschutes River Recreation Area in honor of the past Governor.

Chairing the committee and presenting Governor Goldschmidt's request will be Tom Walsh of Portland. Other members are: Elizabeth C. Ducey of Portland, Nancie Fadeley of Eugene, J.W. (Bud) Forrester of Astoria, Jean G. Frost of Portland, Rep. Paul Hanneman of Cloverdale, F.E. (Shang) Knight of Nehalem, Jack Madison of Tillamook, Janet McLennan of Portland, Herbert M. Schwab of Cannon Beach, and A. William Sweet of North Bend.

Goldschmidt said the public honor was "long overdue" for Straub, who served in elective office for 20 years between 1955 and 1979 as a County Commissioner, State Senator, State Treasurer, and Governor. Goldschmidt noted: "For most of his adult life Bob Straub has worked and fought to preserve Oregon's natural beauty and to share with his fellow Oregonians the pleasures of outdoor recreation that he and Pat, his wife, have enjoyed so much."

The Governor listed Straub's leadership in creating water

recreation facilities in Lane County, cleaning up water pollution particularly in the Willamette River, keeping highways off the ocean beaches, conserving and reclaiming rangeland, guaranteeing full public use and access to the dry sands of the ocean beaches, and originating the idea for the Willamette River Greenway.

"At a time when few people in elective office dared to stand up for conservation and wise use of our natural resources, Bob was out in front," said Goldschmidt. The Governor cited personal knowledge, noting that he had been an intern for Straub in 1966 when Straub was State Treasurer.

Goldschmidt said a Bob Straub State Park on Nestucca Spit is "right on point for at least two reasons":

He recalled that Straub led the successful fight in the mid-1960s to keep U.S. Highway 101 from being relocated onto Kiwanda Beach, Porter Point, and Nestucca Spit between Neskowin and Pacific City.

Goldschmidt also pointed out that the existing state park on Nestucca Spit is "low-key, with just enough facilities to serve a public enjoying the wild nature of this storm-tossed and fragile dunes system. Such careful balancing of preservation and recreation is typical of the goal that Bob so often worked for".

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