



## Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

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# Minutes

- February 2, 2007 Meeting -

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### Housekeeping

- Attendance:
  - X Ernie Drapela, Chair, District 3
  - X Bruce Ronning, District 2
  - X Chuck Solin, District 4
  - X Bruce Galloway, District 5
  - Ric Balfour, District 1
  - John Mare', District 5
  - X Terry Wheeler, District 5
- Chair introduction
- Committee introductions
- Minutes Approval
  - Motion for approval by Terry Wheeler, Seconded by Bruce Ronning.
  - Vote was unanimous for approval.

### Public Comment

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Agenda Item: BLM/USFS Trails update

Presented by: OPRD (Informational)

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Due to the cancellation of the January meeting date, the USFS and BLM representatives were unable to make this meeting and make a presentation as to the state of their trails.

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Agenda Item: Cline Butte NEPA/Trail Planning

Presented by: Bruce Ronning (Informational)

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Due to the cancellation of the January meeting, Keith Brown from BLM could not make the meeting. He provided Bruce Ronning with maps and other information surrounding the planning they are doing on trails in the Cline Butte area. Cline Butte is an area of BLM property that covers 50 square miles between Sisters, Redmond and Bend. It



currently is being used by several trail user groups. When the planning is completed it will manage motorized and non-motorized trails throughout the area. It is a significant trails site, due to it's location to the Bend metropolitan area.

Action Taken: ORTAC members were in consensus to have Bruce Ronning send a letter of support that the Cline Butte area will be of regional trail significance.

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Agenda Item: Inventory of Rail Corridors

Presented by: Rails-to-Trails via tele-conference

(Informational)

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Rails-to-Trails (RTC) had submitted a conceptual outline to assess Oregon's rail corridors. It was presented at the October 2006 ORTAC meeting. ORTAC requested additional communication with RTC on the issue.

RTC has completed similar assessments in other parts of the nation to identify and prioritize the rail-trail opportunities on existing and abandoned rail lines. Currently, RTC is looking to do this in Oregon. The last assessment they completed was in Atlanta. It cost \$60-75,000 and took 18 months to complete. RTC would like to identify funding sources and identify the resources (people) for advisory purposes. They would like to have something on the ground by the RTC conference in Portland in August 2007.

Action Taken: ORTAC supports the idea and recommended RTC work with the State Trails Coordinator and other trail groups in Oregon to get this idea worked out. They also recommended RTC contact ODOT to get their inventory of rail lines in Oregon.

## **Council Discussion Items**

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Agenda Item: Phase 1: Statewide Interactive Physical Activity Website Project

Presented by: Terry Bergerson OPRD

(Informational)

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**ACTION REQUESTED:** ORTAC support for the project.

The Oregon Interactive Physical Activity Website project seeks to provide the citizens of Oregon with comprehensive, quality assured, accessible, on-line park and recreation facility and program information both directly and in partnership with other organizations. The vision is to be the leading Internet gateway to information where Oregonians can get and stay physically active for life.



This project will satisfy a strong need identified in recent statewide recreation planning efforts for easy to access information on where Oregonians can identify and learn about close-to-home recreational facilities and programs to facilitate daily physical activity. Recent statewide recreation participation surveys (2002 SCORP Survey, 2004 Oregon Trail User Survey, and 2006 Aging Oregon Population Survey) have identified walking as the top outdoor recreation activity across all age categories. As a result, the initial phase of the physical activity website project proposes the development of a one-stop website for close-to-home walking opportunities in the state of Oregon. Such a project would give us the biggest bang for the buck in providing Oregonians with park and recreation information that will encourage them to get and stay active.

The proposed website would include an interactive map of Oregon which would allow users to drill down to find walking opportunities in their particular area of the state. Recreation providers would be asked to provide a limited set of information (e.g., trail description, trail length, surface type, and difficulty level) for each trail they would like included on the statewide site. A steering committee will provide feedback on identifying key attributes. A critical attribute would be for recreation providers to provide GPS coordinates for trail heads. This would allow for positioning of trail heads (or public access points) on the interactive map and allow the user to print off driving directions from their home address using existing internet mapping technology.

OPRD will provide funding for development of a web interface and house the site on the agency's website. The website will include opportunities for users to post information and images on the specific trail site (blog).

Project Timeline: January 2007 – January 2008  
Project Manager: Terry Bergerson

Action Taken: ORTAC supports the project concept.

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Agenda Item: Member Updates

Presented by: ORTAC Members

(Informational)

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Bruce Ronning:

- Bend Metro Parks & Recreation is currently completing a Trails Master Plan for their district.



- Pine Nursery Park is being developed. It connects to the North Dike and is part of the regional trail system and the new water trail.

Bruce Galloway:

- In Medford they are developing Navigator's Landing. It currently has a 1.6 miles paved trail that many people drive to use. They want to have 4 more like this in the next 4 years. They are looking at using system improvement costs to pay for the development.
- Crissy Park is a 136 acre park. It is currently being developed to have equestrian trails.
- Jacksonville is currently working on developing a park master plan and develop trails in the new park. The park used to be part of their watershed.
- Roxianne Park has a new communication tower being put in. They will remove 2 towers. This will assist in developing trails in the park.

Chuck Solin:

- Chuck discussed the potential options associated with the May meeting that will be held in Eugene.

Terry Wheeler:

- Santiam State Forest has continued to develop equestrian trails on their new area.
- Molalla River Corridor Trails are working work BLM. BLM would like to connect the trails to Table Rock.
- Silver Falls State Park is currently undergoing Master Planning. The equestrian group is concerned due to potential planning ideas to move the equestrian camping site to the north side of the park.

Iris Riggs, OPRD Bike Recreation Coordinator:

- Iris is looking to survey Hiker-Biker camp site users to determine their satisfaction of the sites, and gain insight for future development/rule changes associated with Hiker-Biker camp sites.
- Iris is working on re-routing the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway. Polk County raised concerns to having a signed route without having bike lanes on the entire route through their county. They estimate that it will cost \$2.5 million to meet this level of bike facility. ORPD was unable to identify a funding stream to rectify this issue, so it has begun looking to the eastside of the river in Marion County and through Keizer and Salem. Currently, this route is being received well by these jurisdictions.



- April 13-14<sup>th</sup> will be the second annual bike summit. It will be located in Sisters, OR.

Ernie Drapela:

- Ernie just returned from Bulgaria and the hiking opportunities are very good there.
- Ernie was invited to Nova Scotia to discuss trail options on a 28.5 mile abandoned rail line.
- The Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee is looking at increasing the number of miles of trails and a new group, the Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway has just formed.
- Desert Trail Association is calling for volunteers to lead hikes from the Deschutes River to the Snake River.

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Agenda Item:           OPRD Trail Projects (Informational)  
Presented by:         Rocky Houston

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OPRD was able to secure additional funds the September 2006 Emergency Board for trail Projects. These funds resulted from additional Lottery revenue that was not budgeted. These funds have been allocated to eight projects that will benefit regional trail efforts. The projects will be completed by July 2007. The projects include:

**Oregon Coast Trail Interpretive and Way finding Signs:** We are going to place 10 interpretive panels along the Oregon Coast Trail that will be consistent with the panels placed in the Samuel Boardman Recreational Corridor. The panels highlight the Oregon Coast Trail for a couple of miles and local plants, history or other items. In addition, we have developed a new way finding sign that will be used to replace existing signs and enhance way finding where no signs currently are placed.

**Rogue Valley Recreation Planning and Trail Development:** We have partnered with several local organizations to further the planning and development of the Rogue River Greenway Trail. It is our intent to utilize this energy for other Rogue Valley trail projects as well. The project will include completing a gravel trail through Valley of the Rogue State Park, Utilize the Rogue Valley COG to develop a development plan for the Rogue River Greenway Trail and get engineering assessments for key sections of the trail. This project will fold into future projects.



**Willamette River Trail:** We are utilizing some funds to develop the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of the Willamette River Trail. These include facility enhancements, maintenance equipment, additional signs and a boat locker demonstration project. The demonstration project may extend into two sites. The concept is to have a structure where paddlers can secure their craft and gear and access the camping or upland restaurants, etc.

**Banks-Vernonia State Trail:** We are constructing a 8 ft wide paved trail and 2 ft wide equestrian trail through 1 mile of previously un-developed railroad grade. We will repair and deck 3 trestles as well. This will remove the trail from an existing gravel road and place the trail on the original alignment of the railroad. This project will be followed up with an additional project, since land use approval will take some time to get.

**Cazadero State Trail:** We are looking to repair a washout on the trail and begin the clearing the trail to allow public access. The Cazadero State Trail connects with the Springwater Trail. We currently are seeking Enhancement funds to build two bridges over Deep Creek and open the trail up further.

**LL Stub Stewart State Park Trails:** We are building an ADA trail to access the Banks-Vernonia State Trail from the main camping area of the park. Additional projects will include hardening trails already built and placing drainage features in the trails to allow year round access to the trail system.

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Trail GPSing:** We will hire a staff person to collect GPS information on all Oregon Parks and Recreation trails. This information will be used by our GIS unit for the new state trails web page, creating and updating trail brochures and for maintenance and asset management purposes.

**State Trails Web Page:** We are developing a web page that will be a resource for all users to find trails in Oregon. Currently, we will work on developing the data base associated with the web page. Next biennium, we are planning on developing the web page and placing Oregon Parks and Recreation trails on the site initially. The long-term goal is to get all trails in Oregon placed on this site as a resource.

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Agenda Item:	OPRD Commission Presentation (March 8, 2007)	(Action)
Presented by:	Rocky Houston	

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Below is a list of the OPRD Commission meeting dates and locations:



Agenda Planning Mtg.	Agenda Briefs Due	Tim – Review Comm. Books	Books to Printer	Books Mailed & Distributed	Commission Mtg Date & Site
Dec. 4, 2006	Dec. 15	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 27	<b>January 11, 2007 Silver Falls</b>
Feb. 6, 2007	Feb. 12	Feb. 13	Feb. 16	Feb. 22	<b>March 8 Salem</b>
April 12, 2007	April 18	April 20	April 23	April 26	<b>May 10 Albany</b>
June 14, 2007	June 20	June 22	June 25	June 28	<b>July 12 Honeyman SP</b>
Aug. 16, 2007	August 23	August 27	August 30	Sept. 6	<b>September 20 Bend</b>
Nov. 1, 2007	Nov. 7	Nov. 9	Nov. 12	Nov. 15	<b>November 29 Champoeg State Heritage Area</b>

ORTAC indicated in previous meetings that they would like to have a representative attend the OPRD Commission meetings. In addition, the ORTAC resolution on the Oregon Coast Trail has been scheduled for the March 8, 2007 commission meeting. The meeting will be in Salem.

The OPRD Commission will also be receiving a presentation on other regional trail efforts OPRD is involved with including the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, the Rogue River Greenway Trail and the Cazadero State Trail.

OPRD can prepare the agenda brief for the OPRD Commission. If ORTAC would like to review this agenda brief or provide feedback, it would need to be completed by February 12, 2007. ORTAC will need to identify a presenter by this date as well.

Action Taken: ORTAC moved to defer action to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Motion made by Bruce Ronning, seconded by Bruce Galloway. Passed unanimously.

ORTAC requested a meeting with OPRD Director Tim Wood prior to the May 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. Bruce Ronning, John Mare' and Ernie Drapela should be part of this meeting.

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Agenda Item: Oregon Trails Webpage – Essential trail information (Action)  
Presented by: Rocky Houston



OPRD is developing a new webpage that will be dedicated to trails in Oregon. The current strategy is to populate the webpage with OPRD trails and then add other land manager's trails in the future. We are currently beginning to create the database for the webpage.

As part of this development, we want to identify the critical information that trail users would want to be able to access on the webpage. I assume that this information will vary for each trail type. I want to utilize ORTAC to identify what these critical items are so that we can ensure the data base includes this information. The current trail types we are looking at are:

- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Cycling
- Equestrian
- Water Trails
- Motorized Trails
- Winter (Snow) Trails

The critical elements we are considering are:

- Trailhead (location, parking, restroom)
- Allowed Uses (Hiking, etc)
- Difficulty
- Length
- Access issues (trail width, slope or just simple ADA trail)
- Key features of trail (brief narrative of trail...why I would want to hike the trail)
- More information contacts (Seasonal, maps, etc )

These two lists are not limits, but starting points for discussion. Please come prepared to discuss the trail types and critical elements so that we can have a world class web page that will meet the needs of our users.

Action Taken: ORTAC recommended following the critical elements presented above.

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Agenda Item: Oregon Scenic Bikeways - OAR

Presented by: Iris Riggs

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## Summary on the State Parks Oregon Scenic Bikeway Program

The Oregon Scenic Bikeway Program is a new program in State Parks designed to promote and enhance bicycle recreation and touring across the State of Oregon. The routes are permanently signed touring routes (on the road and on bike paths) that are planned with safety, amenities and scenery in mind. One predominate goal of the Scenic Bikeways program is to show case the communities and landscapes that make each region in Oregon unique.

## Why the OAR for Oregon Scenic Bikeway Program is Important

- Sets clear and consistent standards for touring routes that are designated as an Oregon Scenic Bikeway.
- Provides a system by which communities can follow to designate there own Oregon Scenic Bikeways.
- Gives official backing to designated routes in order to maintain and manage them.

## Key Points

- All Oregon Scenic Bikeways will be permanently designated and signed bicycle touring routes that showcase Oregon communities and landscapes while simultaneously meeting basic cycling requirements.
- It is essential to the success of theses routes that local communities and advocates are involved in route selection and designation.
- Eventually State Parks would like to see a network of Scenic Bikeways across Oregon.

## What is Needed from the Committee at This Time

The review of and comments based on the current OAR DRAFT provided at this meeting to Iris Riggs, specifically concerning document clarity and general content concerning the needs of cyclists. [Iris.riggs@state.or.us](mailto:Iris.riggs@state.or.us) 503-986-0631

Action Taken: ORTAC suggested that we look at the trail statute and add the categories of water trails and scenic bikeways to clearly articulate all non-motorized trails being planned and developed in Oregon today. They felt a sub-committee may need to be formed on this issue. They wanted OPRD to investigate whether a separate committee is allowed under ORS 390.977 with DOJ and if ORTAC would be the umbrella



Council over this committee. They felt the bike paths were allowed but wanted clarification of other road routes are consistent with the trails statute.

Agenda Item: Recreational Trails Program Grant Update (Informational)  
 Presented by: Rocky Houston

Rocky reviewed the issues of 2006 with RTP grants. It began with a new staff person who would be reviewing the environmental elements of the projects. This person was hired after the RTP grant meeting. They were not satisfied with the level of information being presented to allow for a NEPA assessment to be determined. After several months of working together, OPRD and Federal Highways Administration signed a programmatic agreement. This agreement created a new process to allow the process to be streamlined for applicants and Federal Highways.

The existing 22 grant applications were asked during this time to gather information from a variety of agencies on environmental issues. To date OPRD have submitted updated information from 17 of the applicants. Of those, OPRD has had 6 approved. OPRD is still awaiting information from 5 applicants. Federal Highways is still reviewing the remaining 11 applicants.

The new environmental form and process appears to not be a tremendous fiscal burden on applicants. It however, does require additional work and time that we have tried to build into our grant process for 2007. Many applicants for the 2007 RTP grants have declined to submit an application, since they were concerned with their capacity to get the appropriate environmental information by the grant deadline. It is OPRD's hope that the 2008 RTP grant cycle will collect many of these projects.

Action Taken: ORTAC would like to be updated of the progress OPRD makes with Federal Highways. Their concern is that projects are not being completed and are in jeopardy of their funding being lost. In addition, this delay does not allow the sponsors to submit another project.

Agenda Item: Designated State Trails (Action)  
 Presented by: Rocky Houston



ORTAC indicated at the October 2006 meeting that they would like to consider developing a new policy and/or rule change for designating state trails. This discussion can get very broad and I would like to break the discussion down into a few general questions:

- Does ORTAC want to review the ORS and modify it to include water trails or other items? This would be something that would be presented to the 2009 Legislature.
- Does ORTAC want to review the OAR and consider doing the following:
  - Establish criteria for each trail type?
  - Establish the process an applicant would follow to move a trail forward?
  - Establish the OAR as the process mechanism and house the list of designated trails outside of the OAR?
- Does ORTAC want to consider a trail symbol or signage standard for designated trails?

Currently, ORS 390.965 states we must do the following:

(1) The State Parks and Recreation Department may establish trails after public meetings in the areas of the state where trails are planned and only in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) given to the development of trails across public lands.
- (b) No trails shall cross private land occupied by a residential dwelling, or upon which a residential dwelling is under construction, within 300 feet of such residential dwelling, without the consent of the owner.
- (c) Trails shall be selected to minimize the adverse effects on adjacent landowners or users and their operations.
- (d) Development and management of trails shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established forest, agricultural, or other use plan that is compatible with the purposes of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2).

(2) Before establishing a trail the department shall consider at a public meeting the following information:

- (a) The proposed route of such trail (including maps and illustrations) and the recommended mode or modes of travel to be permitted thereon;
- (b) The areas adjacent to such trails, to be utilized for scenic, historic, natural, cultural or developmental purposes;
- (c) The characteristics that, in the judgment of the department, make the proposed trail suitable as an Oregon recreation trail;
- (d) The current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;
- (e) The estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interest in lands, if any;
- (f) The plans for developing and maintaining the trail and the cost thereof;



- (g) Any anticipated problems of policing the use of such trail and any anticipated hazards to the use of any privately owned lands adjacent to such trail; and
- (h) The extent to which the state or its political subdivisions and public and private organizations might reasonably be expected to participate in acquiring the necessary lands and in the administration thereof. [1971 c.614 §6]

Currently, the OAR (736-009-0005 & 736-009-0010) only lists the trails that are designated. There is no formal policy or procedure at OPRD to bring a trail forward or what constitutes a state designated trail. The National Recreation Trail uses the following criteria:

- The trail must be open to public use and be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices, in keeping with the use anticipated. Trails that demonstrate state-of-the-art design and management are especially encouraged to apply for NRT designation.
- The trail is in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
- The trail will be open for public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation.
- NRT designation must be supported by the landowner(s), public or private, whose property the trail crosses.

The National Scenic Trail meets the following definition:

As envisioned in "Trails for America," national scenic trails are to be very special trail: "A standard for excellence in the routing, construction, maintenance, and marking consistent with each trail's character and purpose should distinguish all national scenic trails. Each should stand out in its own right as a recreation resource of superlative quality and of physical challenge." According to the act, national scenic trails "will be extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the area through which such trails may pass." "Extended trails" was defined in a 1983 amendment to mean at least 100 miles long. National scenic trails are to be land-based (i.e. not water routes) and generally are to be continuous. However, the 1983 amendments provide that studies of potential national scenic trails may conclude that it is feasible to propose one or more trail segments that together are 100 miles long.

The act provides that only Congress can authorize the establishment of a national scenic trail. Overall administration is assigned to either the secretary of the interior or the secretary of agriculture, each of whom assigns the responsibility to a particular



agency within their department. The act directs these agencies to encourage state and local governments, private organizations, and landowners to become actively involved in the development and management of segments of the trails.

The National Historic Trails meet the following definition:

The studies of several of the historic routes of our nation concluded that it was not feasible to establish them as national scenic trails (i.e., continuous, land-based trails). However, because of their importance to our nation's history, many people felt something should be done to preserve, mark, and commemorate them. In 1978, congress amended the National Trails Systems Act to create the category of national historic trails. At the same time, it designated the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, Lewis and Clark, and Iditarod (Alaska Gold Rush) trails as national historic trails.

Like national scenic trails, national historic trails can only be authorized by Congress and are assigned to either the secretary of the interior or the secretary of agriculture with most of the same administrative authorities as for national scenic trails. To qualify as a national historic trail, a route must have been established by historic use. It must be nationally significant as a result of that use, i.e., it must have had a far-reaching effect on broad patterns of American culture (including Native American culture). It must also have significant potential for public recreational use or historic interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation.

Unlike national scenic trail, national historic trails can include water routes. The Lewis and Clark National historic Trail, for example, is primarily composed of the Missouri and Columbia rivers and their tributaries because the expedition actually traveled these routes. National historic trails can also include highways that follow or parallel the historic route and are marked for travel by automobile. Thus, a national historic trail may not always be the same as the actual historic route. It is a linear network of historic and recreation sites that preserve and commemorate the trail and that are connected by various types of routes (land and water trails and highways) providing for retracement or approximate retracement of the historic route.

Action Taken: ORTAC recommends that the State Trails Coordinator provide a draft procedure/policy on state designated trails establishment.



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Agenda Item: ORTAC Strategic Planning

Presented by: ORTAC

(Action)

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ORTAC discussed the need to have a strategic plan established to ensure ORTAC is working on items that are consistent with the trails statutes, the trails plan and OPRD's 2014 goals.

Action: OPRD to bring forward 2014 and Trails Plan Goals to the next ORTAC meeting.

**End of Meeting, 3:35 PM**

Chuck Solin Motioned, Bruce Ronning seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: May 4-5, 2007 – Eugene, OR