



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

- May 4, 2007 Meeting -

Housekeeping

- Attendance:
 - X Ernie Drapela, Chair, Region 1
 - X Bruce Ronning, Region 5
 - X Chuck Solin, Region 2
 - X Bruce Galloway, Region 2
 - X Ric Balfour, Region 1
 - X John Mare', Region 2
 - X Terry Wheeler, Region 2
 - Chair introduction
 - Committee introductions
 - Minutes Approval
 - Edits to February 2007 minutes:
 - Bruce will write the letter for BLM
 - ORPA workshop is 8/9/07 in Portland
 - North Unit Canal Trail, not North Dike Trail
 - Motion for approval by Terry Wheeler, Seconded by Bruce Ronning. Vote was unanimous for approval.
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Agenda Item: Member Updates

Presented by: ORTAC Members

(Informational)

Ric Balfour:

- Westside Trail is progressing will goal to connect Cooper Mountain to Forest Park
- ADA trail is difficult at forest park and they are considering an alternative standard
- Forest Grove is developing a mater plan for the perimeter trail, Ric is writing the plan
- City of Vernonia is writing a mater plan for their mountain bike skills park, Ric is writing the plan
- Westside Freeride Association is working with ODF on new trails and trail designs in the Area 1 section of the Tillamook State Forest



- ODF is making progress on other trails in their system as well
- Black Rock has private sector group interested making a mountain bike lift at the site. It would be for mountain bikes only and open year round.

John Mare':

- ODFW closed the trail at Lint Slough and are now planning to build the trail on the west bank. OPRD is looking at the idea of managing the site.
- Alsea Bay, River & Tributaries received a NPS planning grant for a water trail. Alex Stone is working with them from NPS. They have established a steering committee and are looking at mapping now.
- Newport is looking to expand the Big Creek Trail
- The City of Yachats is seeking a RTP grant to connect the Yachats Ocean Road SRA to Amanda's Trail, filling a 2100 ft gap in the Oregon Coast Trail

Chuck Solin:

- Eugene had a marathon. It was run primarily on the bike paths in Eugene. They had over 4500 participants
- Clear Lake Resort is being sold to the County. It is the upper terminus of the McKenzie River Trail

Terry Wheeler:

- Santiam State Forest has continued to develop equestrian trails in the Rock Creek Basin. It will be a 20 mile loop when finished.
- There are equestrian work parties going on at LL Stub Stewart SP and Silver Falls SP

Bruce Ronning:

- Inquired on the status of the land exchange for the Deschutes River Trail. Rocky Houston indicated that he would follow up with OPRD staff and did not have any specific information

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. They received \$300,000 from the water department in a partnership on the development of the property as a water facility as well.
- 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 had a new communication tower put in. They have asked for \$18,000 for trails to be developed by this addition. They will reconstruct trails to the old CCC camp and to view points



- The City of Grants Pass is working through issues on their proposed water front trail.
- Bear Creek Greenway is developing a coordinated management plan. It will be an inter-agency plan, with funds being managed by the county.

Kyleen Stone:

- OPRD's budget is in the process of being reviewed by the legislature. The outlook looks good for outdoor recreation, grant funding and the addition of the bike recreation coordinator.

Ernie Drapela:

- The Historic Columbia River Highway has a project and cooperative partnership on the I-84 bridge project. Since this site is the gateway to the gorge, the partners are renewing their effort to make the site more accessible for recreation with a new trailhead in the Sandy River Delta, 40 mile loop connections, a new pedestrian bridge across the Sandy River and connections with Troutdale.
- Visited New Mexico and looked at their trail systems at Rock City, White Sands and the Apache Mt. Ski Area

Rocky Houston:

- Updated ORTAC on the Five Mile Point section of the Oregon Coast Trail. The local land owners want the trail moved to a different site. The local users want to ensure a route is maintained and are ok with the re-route. The OPRD contact has changed to Andy LaTomme to work closer with the adjacent land owners that the trail easement crosses to get agreement on the route.

Iris Riggs:

- Black Rock is working on a vision to have 60 miles of trails for mountain biking in the Socialist Valley and ODF lands.
- The Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway re-route through Marion County is going well. The route is well received locally. Polk County would still like to discuss the route through portions of their county. The City of Independence really wants to remain as a part of the route.
- The Calapooya Mountain Scenic Bikeway route is established and now she is beginning the process of working on inter-agency agreements.
- The Scenic Bikeway Administrative Rule is just about ready to go to rule making.

Agenda Item: Doug Newman Memorial Recreation Trails Achievement Award (Action)

Presented by: Rocky Houston



Public Notice was sent out in February 2007 for nominations for the Doug Newman Memorial Recreation Trails Achievement Award. A deadline was set for March 30, 2007 for all applications to be submitted. We received (2) nominations by the deadline.

Those nominations were for:

- Tom Gibbons
- Dick Schouten

Action Requested: ORTAC select a recipient for the 2006 Doug Newman Memorial Recreation Trails Achievement Award.

Action Taken: ORTAC discussed the nominees and a motion was set forth by Chuck Solin to select Tom Gibbons and make the presentation to him at the July 20th, 2007 ORTAC meeting in Bend. Ernie Drapela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: ORTAC Strategic Planning (Action)
Presented by: Rocky Houston

At the February 2, 2007 meeting, ORTAC began discussing the development of a Strategic Plan. ORTAC requested that OPRD provide documentation on several statutes, rules, policies and other planning documents to assist in developing their strategic plan.

Attached are the following:

- Recreational Trails Statute
- Recreational Trails Administrative Rules
- State Trails Plan 2005-14 Goals and Objectives
- OPRD 2014 Strategic Goals

Action Requested: Start process of developing a strategic plan for ORTAC that is consistent with the planning goals and objectives of OPRD, the State Trails Plan and the rules and statutes that govern recreational trails.

Action Taken: ORTAC reviewed the meeting that Ernie Drapela and Bruce Ronning had with Tim Wood, Director of OPRD. The decision was hold off on any planning at this



meeting and follow up with the discussion after the next OPRD Commission meeting, in which ORTAC will be presenting information at.

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

I had begun investigating the Designated State Trails process about 18 months ago. This has resulted in identifying that the current statute and administrative rule does not clarify the criteria used to establish designated state trails. In addition, the process requires an administrative rule change to add a trail to the designated state trails list. My summation is that the process is too cumbersome, resulting in a lack of designated state trails in Oregon.

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. At the February 2007 meeting, several options were presented and ORTAC requested that I begin developing criteria to establish Designated State Trails. This will then be followed up with potential administrative rule and statute changes in order to put this process in place.

I have developed two levels of designated state trails. This is consistent with how I interpret the goals of designated state trails, to show case Oregon's best trails and to preserve trails as a recreational resource for current and future citizens of Oregon. These categories are also consistent with the trails already identified as designated state trails.

First, the user type would not be the deciding factor classifying designated trails. The user type would be a secondary attribute of the trail. This would reduce duplication and capture the essence that who uses the trail is less important than there is a trail to use.

The two categories would be: Oregon Scenic Trails and Oregon Recreation Trails.

The Oregon Scenic Trail meets the following definition:

Oregon Scenic Trails are to be very special trails. Consistent with the National Scenic Trail definitions, Oregon Scenic Trails will be so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of state or national significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the area through which such trails may pass. A standard for excellence in the routing, construction, maintenance, and marking consistent with each trail's character and purpose should distinguish all Oregon Scenic Trails. Each should stand out in its own right as a recreation resource of superlative quality, of physical challenge and scenic splendors.

Examples of this trail would include:

- Oregon Coast Trail
- Willamette River Water Trail
- North Umpqua Trail



The Oregon Recreation Trail meets the following definition:

Oregon Recreation Trails are to be trails of regional or local significance. Consistent with Oregon Scenic Trails, the trails will maximize outdoor recreation potential and the conservation and enjoyment of local scenic, historical and natural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass. A standard for connectivity and linking multiple recreation sites together will be weighted to enhance the implementation of Oregon's Trail Plan. Trails that have minimal connectivity will require unique or locally significant scenic, historical or natural qualities.

Examples of this trail include:

- 40 mile Loop Trail
- Bear Creek Greenway
- Deschutes River Trail
- Willow Creek Trail

All Designated Oregon Trails will use 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.
- The trail must have a trails plan or other comprehensive planning document and a trails maintenance plan.
- 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.
- Designation must be supported by the landowner(s), public or private, whose property the trail crosses and the recreating public in the vicinity.

Proposed Designation Process:

* Note this proposed process may require Administrative Rule and/or Statute changes before they could be put in place.

1. Applicant reviews Designated State Trails Manual and submit's a letter of intent to the State Trails Coordinator. The letter of intent will serve as an informational item only and will not be mandatory, but highly recommended.

- State Trails Coordinator will provide information to applicant about the process, eligible trails and be available for technical assistance through their process.
 - State Trails Coordinator would provide on the ground review of trail with optional ORTAC member assistance.
- Pre-review process by ORTAC prior to formal process to determine eligibility, etc.
 - Require presentation by applicant or State Trails Coordinator at ORTAC meeting

2. Upon Pre-review approval by ORTAC, Applicant will follow the process identified in the manual, including:

- Complete Application found in manual.
- Provide Trail Map and GIS information to OPRD.
- Consistent with ORS 390.965, Applicants will provide proof of public meetings/hearings on the proposed designation of the trail.
- Provide a copy of the trail plan or other comprehensive plan for the trail
- Provide a copy of the trail maintenance plan.



- Provide signed copy(s) of the land manager approval form
 - Provide signed copy(s) of the commitment for public access/maintenance for 10 yrs form.
3. Formal Presentation to ORTAC by applicant.
- If approved by ORTAC, trail will be dedicated on State Trails Day by ORTAC member or State Trails Coordinator.
 - If not approved by ORTAC, applicant will receive documentation supporting ORTAC's decision and be provided conditions to meet prior to re-review by ORTAC.

Action Requested: ORTAC members to review proposed definitions and process and provide input to State Trails Coordinator for future changes to this process.

Agenda Item: Oregon Scenic Bikeways – Calapooya Scenic Bikeway (Informational)

Presented by: Iris Riggs

The Calapooya Scenic Bikeway began its planning in early 2006. Cycle Oregon began working with OPRD to develop a loop from Eugene to Oakland and back. OPRD looked at a loop or a linear route to connect to the Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway. A linear route was identified as the best alternative and OPRD has been working with local jurisdictions to get the route approved.

Currently, the route is in the final staging of approval and getting ready for sign ordering in July 2007. It is OPRD's intent to have the route signed over the summer of 2007.

A route map is attached.



Public Comment

Agenda Item: USFS, Willamette NF, West Fir Ranger District Trails (Informational)

Presented by: Stacey Smith

Stacey discussed the work being done on trails in the Willamette National Forest, the work being done on the Scenic Byway and the renewed interest in the Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail by the local partners.

Agenda Item: BLM, Salem District (Informational)

Presented by: Zachary Jarrett

Jesse discussed the current and future trail efforts that they are working on in his district.

Agenda Item: Willamalane Parks & Recreation District (Informational)

Presented by: Jake Resley

Willamalane had two presenters discuss three projects that they are working on. The first project was the Middle Fork Loop Trail. The other two projects are located in East Springfield at the Quarry Park and Jasper Meadows Park. They will provide close to home opportunities for two new subdivisions.



Agenda Item: City of Eugene (Informational)

Presented by: Phillip Richardson and Jesse Cary Hobbs

They presented on the Ridgeline Trail.

Agenda Item: City of Oakridge (Informational)

Presented by:

The City of Oakridge and West Fir received a NPS Planning grant and are currently completing a trails plan for the area. The trails will allow better access into adjacent National Forest lands.

Field Project Reviews

- Skinner Butte Park
- South Bank Trail

Meeting Adjourned



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 - X Terry Wheeler, Region 2
- Chair introduction
- Committee introductions

Field Project Reviews

- Ridgeline Trail (City of Eugene)
- Willamette River Water Trail (OPRD)
- Calapooya Scenic Bikeway (OPRD)
- Elijah Bristow State Park / Eugene to Pacific Crest Trail (OPRD)

End of Meeting, 12:35 PM

Chuck Solin Motioned, Bruce Ronning seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: July 20 -21, 2007 – Bend, OR