



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

- July 20, 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
 - Minutes corrected.
 - Motion for approval by Terry Wheeler, Seconded by Bruce Ronning. Vote was unanimous for approval.

Council Discussion Items

Agenda Item: May OPRD Commission Meeting Update

Presented by: Ernie Drapela, Bruce Ronning

(Informational)

Ernie indicated that the OPRD Commission was receptive and listened to the issues that were presented by ORTAC. The OPRD Commission has new members, through attrition and that there was a need for ORTAC to continue to bring issues in front of the them to allow for education of ORTAC role and that they are aware of the big ticket items.

Bruce stated that ORTAC's mission for being at the OPRD Commission meeting was to communicate their concerns with the Oregon Coast Trail. ORTAC now has the opportunity to show how they can assist in the 2014 plan.

ORTAC agreed that they should have a member at every OPRD Commission meeting.



Richard Walkoski indicated that there is a potential for more stability, since most of the new Commissioners could be there for 4 or more years.

Agenda Item: July ORPD Commission Meeting Update (Information)
Presented by: John Mare'

John Mare' attended the OPRD Commission meeting in Florence. He stated that there was a large portion of the meeting dedicated to the local government grant approvals, specifically the Ash Creek Trail in Independence. He stated that the OHV Administrative Rule also created a lot of debate.

ORTAC asked if they could have an agenda spot at every OPRD Commission meeting. Richard indicated that he would look into it.

Agenda Item: ORTAC Member Updates (Information)
Presented by: All ORTAC members

Chuck Solin:

- Willamalane is moving forward with the trail projects they presented at the May meeting.
- City of Eugene is beginning the prep work for the Olympic Trials. There have been many new sign improvements on the trails.

Ric Balfour:

- City of Forest Grove is getting close to completing their trails master plan. They received a local government grant for a bridge to cross Gales Creek.
- The city of Vernonia has completed their master plan and received a local government grant for their Pump Park.
- Metro Trails Quarterly Meeting had a large push for identifying regional transportation trails.
- Work is ongoing, but there is resistance to mountain bikes still in Forest Park.
- Wapato Lake Wildlife Refuge site has been identified and moving forward. This is an area south of the Tualatin River from Gaston, south near highway 47.



- Ric is moving back to New Zealand. He will be resigning from ORTAC before he moves.

Bruce Galloway:

- Bear Creek Greenway is moving forward on the maintenance plan. It is still moving forward. There are new wayfinding signs from a mountain bike club.
- The city of Grants Pass has had a push back from their river front trail concept. The city council has resigned to only placing the trail (and it's proposed alignment) in the sections where people want it.
- The city of Medford has worked with IMBA to have a Trail Solutions workshop at Prescott Park on September 29th & 30th.

Terry Wheeler:

- LL Stub Stewart corals were completed by O.E.T. prior to the grand opening.
- There is a "Right to Ride" legislative concept at the national level. It would keep trails used by stock open and they could not be closed to stock in the future.

John Mare':

- Lint Slough Trail is now under water. ODFW is the current owner and the local citizens are working with them for a Westside trail. They have made a plea to have the property transferred to OPRD. They want to know if an easement could be put in place instead.
- Alsea Bay has had a National Park Services technical assistance grant for the last year to develop a water trail. They are applying for a 2nd year grant to assist in completing the plan. They have begun speaking with marinas up stream and they are showing interest in the plan.
- City of Yachats has received and RTP grant for section of the Oregon Coast Trail that would connect Yachats State Recreation area to Amanda's Trail.

Agenda Item:	Staff Updates	(Informational)
Presented by:	Rocky Houston	

Rocky Houston:

- Trails Projects within OPRD
 - Oregon Coast Trails Panels – We completed and have placed 10 new interpretative panels all along the trail.
 - GPSing of OPRD Trails – We have completed field work for most of the OPRD parks with trails.



- Valley of the Rogue – We have constructed 1 mile of paved trail and acquired Lydar imagery for the entire Rogue River Greenway Trail.
- Trails Web page – We have completed the data base for the trail information and have begun collecting trail information for close to home trail opportunities.
- LL Stub Stewart – We improved the Hares Canyon Trail surface and added a connection from the campgrounds to the Banks-Vernonia State Trail. The park opened a couple of weeks ago. There are currently 17 miles of trail open.
- Banks Vernonia State Trail – We paved 3.3 miles of the trail from Buxton to Hwy 47. We have almost completed decking three trestles (735 ft, 85 ft, 12 ft)
- Cazadero Trail – We have acquired materials to fix the washout at Boring and will begin more development next biennium.
- 2007-09 Projects Planned
 - Saddle Mountain State Park – Reconstruct the upper mile that has severe erosion issues.
 - Champoeg State Park – Remove and repave about 2 miles of their bike trails.
 - Valley of the Rogue – Construct 3.2 miles of paved trail with Transportation Enhancement funds.
 - Cazadero Trail – Develop trail surface and begin design/planning of bridges.
 - Trail Web Page – Design web page and begin populating it with trails from all over the state.
 - Banks Vernonia State Trail – Construct 1 mile of new trail, deck a 66 ft trestle and pave the last 4 miles of the trail. Begin design and construction of the Banks Trailhead with Transportation Enhancement funds.
- Oregon Coast Trail
 - Five Mile Point – The Region Manager has taken over the negotiations with the adjacent property owners. He is currently looking at the feasibility of crossing Five Mile Point at the beach.
 - Yachats – They have received an RTP grant to construct a gap in the trail from Yachats State Recreation Area to Amanda's Trail.
 - Gerderman Property – I met onsite to look at the property and trail connections to the Oregon Coast Trail. I have forwarded this information on to the local management unit to review for potential acquisition. This is not a gap fix for the trail, but would serve as a local connection potentially.



- Acquisitions for Trails
 - We are looking at a couple of abandoned railways for trails.
 - We continue to work with Metro on acquiring an easement for the Cazadero Trail at the Salvation Army property.
- OC&E State Trail – I have been working with a local steering committee to develop a trail plan for the trail. We will have a public meeting coming up soon for the draft trails plan.

Jan Houck:

- Jan just completed reviewing the Local Government Grants for the annual awards meeting.
- The Willamette River Water Trail had its final dedication on State Trails Day in June. The dedication was in Portland. The event was very successful.
- Jan is working on the Sports & Recreation section at the State Fair. This is a new area at the State Fair. It will have several recreation and sport activities demonstrated and available for fair goers to try out. Jan's section will be a pool. She is working to get Kayak demonstrations, Scuba demonstrations and other water recreation elements.

Chris Parkins:

- Chris is the new High Desert District Manager, replacing Curtis Smith.
- Tumalo State Park: They are working to make the water access safer; looking at connections with the Deschutes River Trail.
- OC&E State Trail: They completed surfacing the trail around Switchback, about six miles; they have been using correction crews to fix fencing issues.
- Collier State Park: Spring Creek Trail is now open. It has a new bridge and under crossing of I-97 that was replaced in the last year; They have new interpretative panels on the trail; They are working on a Collier to Kimball Connection for equestrians.
- LaPine State Park: Deschutes loop trail is now open after the fire last fall.
- Fort Rock: Looking at a loop trail around Fort Rock. There is one more in-holding left to make it feasible.
- Pilot Butte: There are several ideas locally on what to do with the park. There have been discussions on a land transfer with the school district.



Public Comment

Agenda Item: Deschutes National Forest

(Informational)

Presented by: John Schubert

John Schubert is the trails supervisor. They have over 2,000 miles of trails in the Deschutes National Forest. The system is growing and the use is growing. They are adding mountain biking, snow showing, cross country skiing trails. Their staff is small and getting smaller with reductions. They currently have one crew for four districts. They have a great network of volunteers/clubs helping them keep trails open. The High Cascades Forest Volunteers are one key group that is becoming a model for getting work done and training volunteers.

He would like to see how other states are getting trail funding stabilized.

Agenda Item: Redmond Parks & Recreation District

(Informational)

Presented by: Jeff Powers

They have just completed the Parks Master Plan. They are working to get the north section of the dry canyon trail developed. There is 2.1 miles still to develop. American Legion Park is another section that they are working to develop.

Agenda Item: Crook County Parks & Recreation District

(Informational)

Presented by: Dwayne Gardner

Currently, they have a 2 mile paved bike path at Crooked River Park. Prineville is growing at an amazing rate. They are working to make trail connections and develop new park spaces to meet the population growth/recreational need.



Agenda Item: Bend Metro Parks & Recreation District

(Informational)

Presented by: Steve Jorgensen

Currently, there are 88 miles of bike lanes and 51 miles of trails in their district. Of the 51 miles of trails, 27 miles are paved and 24 are natural surface. 17 miles of the natural surface trails are open to mountain bikes. They have 13 miles of planned trails.

Agenda Item: BLM

(Informational)

Presented by: Greg

At Crooked River Ranch they are planning a equestrian loop trail. There would be a loop trail at the scout camp and a trail along the basalt benches. It is in the Hollows/Opal Springs area.

The Badlands Wilderness Study Area has a system in place of 30-35 miles of trails. It is a fairly highly used area and they are planning on improving the trailheads.

The South Alfalfa area trails are closed to OHVs and now are used by equestrians now. They do not have a managed trailhead, but there is one user created trailhead.

Clines Butte Recreation Area is currently going through the EA process. The area is 32,000 acres, sitting between Bend, Redmond and Sisters. It has two miles of the Deschutes River running through it. The area is being planned as a mixed OHV and non-motorized trail areas. They are planning on adding river trail access points.

Field Project Reviews

- South Canyon Trail Bridge – COID Property
- Future South UGB trail connections
- McKay Park – Colorado St. Bridge Paddle Trail improvements
- Newport Ave Bridge to Revere Ave walking tour
- Tumalo State Park – Gopher Gulch Ranch walking tour

Meeting Adjourned at 5:30 PM



Minutes

- July 21, 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
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Council Discussion Items

Agenda Item: Staff Updates

(Informational)

Presented by: OPRD Staff

Ricahard Walkoski: OPRD is working to develop a formal policy on how we work with water trails. We are planning on working with more water trails with communities all over Oregon.

Jan Houck: Jan attended a staff retreat on the Lower Deschutes River. It was the recreation programs, volunteer services and recreation safety departments who attended. She met several ODFW, BLM, Oregon State Police and users while on the 23 mile float.

Iris Riggs: Iris is moving forward with the Oregon Administrative Rule for the Scenic Bikeway. It will be presented to the September Commission hearing. She was part of the Cycle Oregon weekend ride this year. It was in the Vernonia area and they rode the Banks Vernonia State Trail and LL Stub Stewart State Park. Iris is working on several events at the State Fair. There is a Bike, Run, Walk event; a bmx track; free parking for bikes; and events for the Sports, Health and Recreation section of the fair.



Agenda Item: Rails to Trails Conference

(Action)

Presented by: Rocky Houston

Rails to Trails is having their bi-annual conference in Portland this year from August 8th to 10th. Rocky will be attending and OPRD will pay for ORTAC members who would like to attend.

Action: Ernie Drapela will attend conference on behalf of ORTAC.

Agenda Item: Doug Newman Award

(Action)

Presented by: Bruce Ronning

The Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council seeks nominations for its annual Doug Newman Recreation Trails Achievement Award.

Named after deceased Council member Doug Newman, the award honors a person, or persons, who have made significant contributions to non-motorized trails within Oregon. Nominations are solicited from various non-motorized trail organizations, government agencies, and the general public.

Nominees are reviewed on the following three subjects:

- 1) Accomplishment of candidate(s) has/will benefit a large number and variety of trail users.
- 2) Candidate(s) have made a significant contribution to the planning, design, development, or maintenance of recreation trails. Describe the scope of impact locally, regionally, or statewide.
- 3) Candidate(s) accomplishments are an inspiration to others.

This years Doug Newman Award is presented to Tim Gibbons. Tim Gibbons has been a long time advocate for cross-country skiing in Oregon. He helped push for the development of two different skiing sites in Oregon.



Public Comments

Agenda Item: Bend Paddle Trails Alliance (Informational)

Presented by: Steve Day

The Bend Paddle Trails Alliance was formed to develop a Deschutes River Water Trail. They would like a water trail brochure, signage and improved water trail amenities to the Deschutes River, Little Deschutes River and several high cascades lakes. They have received a grant from the RTP program, REI and several other organizations.

Agenda Item: Paddle Trail Feasibility Study – Bend section of Deschutes River (Informational)

Presented by: Bruce Ronning

Bend Metro Parks & Recreation District completed a Paddle Trail feasibility study for the Bend section of the Deschutes River. They hired Recreation Engineering and Planning out of Colorado to complete the study. The feasibility study looked at key features in the water way that impeded a potentially safe paddle trail. The work resulted in identifying six features (bridges, dams) and developed solutions to make the route safe.

Agenda Item: Central Oregon Trails Alliance (Informational)

Presented by:

Wanoga Trails Complex is currently being proposed by COTA. It will be a 30 mile trail system that will have some freeride features on the side of the trails.



Field Project Reviews

- Larkspur Trail to Pilot Butte State Park walking tour
- Pine Nursery Park – North Unit Canal Trail

End of Meeting, 12:35 PM

Chuck Solin Motioned, Bruce Ronning seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: November 1 – 2, 2007 in Gresham, OR