



Oregon Statewide Trails Plan

STATEWIDE TRAILS PLAN ISSUES WORKSHOPS

NORTHWEST REGION

Portland Public Recreation Provider Session (Daytime) 5/21/03

(Northwest Region includes Clatsop, Columbia, Multnomah, Hood River, Tillamook, Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas, Polk, Marion, Linn, Lincoln, Benton and Lane Counties)

Motorized Trail Issues

- A. There is a need to better manage for trail-related environmental impacts and resource protection through careful selection of riding area locations, planning, design and public education (14 dots).
- B. There is a need for trail-user education including programs such as Leave-No-Trace and Tread Lightly and education regarding riding regulation, shared use and information resources currently available (11 dots).
- C. Regarding comment B, Oregon Equestrian Trails can help with this endeavor. One of our major objectives is leave no trace (on-line comment).
- D. There is a need for adequate and consistent information resources including signs, maps, brochures, websites, and a central statewide website to access such information in a single location (7 dots).
- E. There are a growing number of OHV enthusiasts in the Willamette Valley—but few close-to-home riding opportunities available. As a result, these people are traveling considerable distances to use existing trails. There is a need to develop high-use OHV riding areas near major population centers in the region (6 dots).
- F. There is a need for natural and cultural interpretation at riding areas in the region (5 dots).
- G. There is a need for challenging off-road riding areas in the region designed to accommodate a variety of equipment types and skill levels—especially for 4-Wheel Drive vehicles (4 dots).
- H. Regarding comment G, Off Road Vehicles are prohibited in our local parks. This issue is not likely to be addressed by local park providers, who are hard pressed to provide for other trail needs (on-line comment).
- I. The advantage of a statewide trails plan and system is that smaller communities have any opportunity for recognition and participation (2 dots).
- J. In coastal areas of the region, the biggest issue is OHV noise. The statewide noise limit at riding areas in Oregon is currently 99 db, but on the Oregon Dunes its 92 db. This reduction has made a huge difference in how motorized recreation is looked at by non-motorized recreationists (1 dot).
- K. There is a growing need to address the issue of drinking and OHV driving. This issue should be addressed through management and adopting appropriate regulations and enforcement in order to change current behavior at riding areas (0 dots).
- L. There is a need to simplify the complexity of the user fee and permit requirements for recreational use within the region (0 dots).
- M. There is a need for connectivity of trail systems in the region (0 dots).

N. There is a need to develop "Best Management Practices" for trails including environmental and code compliance and trail designs that are compatible with the natural environment (0 dots).

O. There is a need to develop linkage/partnerships with the Tourism Council to promote our trail resources, interpret our natural and cultural history, and promote trails as an Oregon tourism attraction. Because of its scenic beauty and weather, Oregon should own summer tourism. There is a need to develop a central clearinghouse for trail opportunities including ordinance maps (0 dots).

Non-Motorized Trail Issues

P. There is a need for funding for local trails planning within the region (8 dots).

Q. Regarding comment P, there is a huge need for funding local-level projects. 100% grants would be ideal, however, 50% matching funds would be beneficial (on-line comment).

R. Regarding comment P, all of the other comments cannot happen unless a long-term, stable funding source for trails is established. That includes funding for acquisition, development, and most importantly maintenance (it wouldn't hurt if it also took into account overhead \$\$ to help fund staff). It would also be helpful if this funding source was set aside exclusively for trail projects. Our community wants trails, we just need to find a way to pay for them (on-line comment).

S. There is a need for connectivity of trail systems in the region (8 dots).

T. Regarding comment S, yes, there needs to be more funding for equestrian users (on-line comment).

U. Regarding comment S, connectivity is a vital issue as it is what allows users to visit areas outside their community. Fanno Creek Trail, along with its many connectors, provide a wonderful opportunity for people to explore the Portland metro area (on-line comment).

V. There is a need for more urban trails in close proximity to where people live (7 dots).

W. There is a need for an inventory of available trail development opportunities such as railroad right-of-ways, utility corridors, unused right-of-ways, and feasibility studies to determine corridor usability (4 dots).

X. Regarding comment W, I agree, an inventory would be most beneficial (on-line comment).

Y. There is a need for better coordination between agencies/organizations such as ODOT, railroads, ports, utility companies, land trusts/conservancies and the health community to develop trail opportunities in the region (4 dots).

Z. There is a need to examine the carrying capacity of non-motorized trails including urban, rural, and wilderness use standards and level of service standards for urban trail systems (3 dots).

AA. There is a need for information regarding the economic and health-related benefits of recreation. The information should be packaged in an easy to use manner including summary bullet points, literature review summaries and bibliography listings for those wanting more information on a given topic. The materials should be designed to assist trail in overcoming resistance to trail development projects (3 dots).

BB. There is a need for a toolbox designed to assist trail planners in building partnerships with developers, take better advantage of trail development opportunities, bring together urban and park planners and address recreational liability statutes (2 dots).

CC. There is a need for trail maintenance and rehabilitation in the region (1 dot).

DD. Regarding comment CC, Oregon State Parks needs to assume responsibility for maintenance of several trails on state owned parkland. That includes Wygant State Park, Chetwok Loop, Bonneville State Park, the upper loop of Tooth Rock, Rocky Butte State Park, opportunities for connecting trails, Government Island, opportunities for trails for boaters to hike and view birding areas while stretching their legs and for overnight camping for canoes and kayaks on water trails. Rooster Rock State Park could also be publicized as an overnight stop for canoes and kayaks on water trails. Rooster Rock also needs rehabilitation of the type of male homosexuals who frequent the east parking lot, restrooms, woods area and beaches in summer low water as well as year round. This problem has been ongoing for many years and is a direct result of Oregon State Parks tolerance for nude sunbathing at Rooster Rock (on-line comment).

EE. Regarding comment CC, many trails and trail sections need rehabilitation. External funding would be beneficial (on-line comment).

FF. There is a need to use condemnation to acquire trail right-of-ways for essential trail systems (1 dot).

GG. There is a need for trail development funding (1 dot).

HH. Regarding comment GG, I agree, funding is necessary (on-line comment).

II. There is a need to develop "Best Management Practices" for trails including environmental and code compliance and trail designs that are compatible with the natural environment (1 dot).

JJ. Regarding comment II, while I concur with most all of the issues raised in these sections, I do not see the need to follow with more restrictions for trail planners (on-line comment).

KK. There is a need for balance between habitat and wildlife, water quality and human demand in trail design and planning. Endangered species protection/requirements are currently placing a great burden on trail planners—particularly on federal lands in the region (1 dot).

LL. Regarding comment KK, I very much endorse this comment. To put it more plainly, the EPA and Fish and Wildlife (both Federal and State) have got entirely too much input and influence and are delaying and making prohibitive expensive requirements for trail planners and builders. My golly!--- bridges required for streams you can step over, which are in turn located above waterfalls no fish can jump!! FORGET IT (on-line comment).

MM. Trail development creates a trespass issue with adjacent landowners (1 dot).

NN. Regarding comment MM, this is an important issue. Private property rights must be respected at all times. But--it is imperative that we all try to work with landowners and try to convince them that recreationists are not a danger to them, even if most of us do come from the city. Whatever their fears, we must try to help them see the benefits (on-line comment).

OO. There is a need for training in trail design, maintenance and planning (1 dot).

PP. There is a need to ensure that trails are safe and secure from theft, vandalism and other crimes. To accomplish this, there is a need for coordination between federal, state, county and local law enforcement efforts. Safety concerns should also be included in trail planning, management, site selection and design (1 dot).

QQ. There is a need for Leave-No-Trace Guidelines for front-country trail use and an accompanying educational program (1 dot).

RR. Regarding comment QQ, Oregon Equestrian trails can be of assistance in leave no trace. It is one of our main guidelines (on-line comment).

SS. There is a need to better manage for trail-related environmental impacts and resource protection through selection of proper trail area locations, planning, design and public education (0 dots).

TT. There is a need for trail acquisition funding (0 dots).

UU. Regarding comment TT, funding for acquisition is needed (on-line comment).

VV. Regarding comment TT, Amen, brother, amen (on-line comment).

WW. There is a need to consider rail with trail opportunities in the region. There are a lot of rail lines that are still in use, but receive little train traffic (0 dots).

YY. There is a need for adequate trailheads and associated facilities such as parking and restrooms (0 dots).

ZZ. There is a need to better manage the process of providing accessible trails in the region. The management effort should an inventory of existing trails, what trails are currently accessible and what improvements are needed, how to properly address new technologies and the need to provide challenging trails for people with disabilities (0 dots).

AAA. Regarding comment ZZ, there is no need to provide challenging trails for people with disabilities (on-line comment).

BBB. There is a need to address new trail uses and technologies (such as geocaching) through management, information and education (0 dots).

CCC. There is a need to address user conflicts associated with new uses and special events (0 dots).

DDD. There is a need for better management of dogs and other pets on trails to address security, threats and impacts. SCORP survey results have shown that approximately 40% of people running and walking for exercise and walking for pleasure bring a dog with them while using recreational trails (0 dots).

EEE. There is a need to protect Historic Trail Corridors within the region and the historic character of these corridors. Protection of these corridors may at times conflict with ADA requirements and other uses (e.g. motorized uses) (0 dots).

FFF. There is a need to simplify the current complexity of the user fee and permit requirements for recreational use within the region (0 dots).

GGG. There is a need to proactively address the effects of technology changes on trail management (e.g. Segway) (0 dots).

HHH. There is a need for additional birding trails within the region (0 dots).

III. There is a need to develop linkage/partnerships with the Tourism Council to promote our trail resources, interpret our natural and cultural history, and promote trails as an Oregon tourism attraction. Because of its scenic beauty and weather, Oregon should own summer tourism. There is a need to develop a central clearinghouse for trail opportunities including ordinance maps (0 dots).

JJJ. The advantage of a statewide trails plan and system is that smaller communities have any opportunity for recognition and participation (0 dots).

KKK. The completion of the Springwater Corridor Trail from Boring, Oregon to Estacada should continue as a statewide priority. As years pass, the State Parks priority to complete the trail seems to wane. The connection of the Springwater Corridor Trail from downtown Portland to the Pacific Crest Trail outside Estacada will link to Mexico and Canada. It's a multiple-user opportunity and a project worth completing (on-line comment).

Water Trail Issues

LLL. There is a need for more public water access in the region (13 dots).

MMM. There is a need for a designated funding source for non-motorized watercraft facility development. Currently, there are motorized and non-motorized terrestrial trail grant programs and a motorized watercraft facility grant program, but no resources specifically designated for non-motorized watercraft facility development. As a result, there is a need to explore funding opportunities/sources such as a boater registration fee—although such a proposal would be extremely controversial (7 dots).

NNN. There is a need to develop linkage/partnerships with the Tourism Council to promote our trail resources, interpret our natural and cultural history, and promote trails as an Oregon tourism attraction. Because of its scenic beauty and weather, Oregon should own summer tourism. There is a need to develop a central clearinghouse for trail opportunities including ordinance maps (6 dots).

OOO. The increase in non-motorized boating is having an impact on existing recreational facilities such as day-use and overnight parking at put-in and take-out areas and creating issues associated with safety and security, lack of fee payment and other management issues (5 dots).

PPP. There is a need for information resource standards including signage, way finding and maps/guides (4 dots).

QQQ. It is often difficult to get support from land managers for developing non-motorized boating facilities and paddling opportunities where paddlers do not have to be exposed to motorized boat wakes (3 dots).

RRR. There is a need for proper facility development for water trails including adequate restroom facilities (3 dots).

SSS. There is a need for technical expertise and resources for water trail planning and development within the region (3 dots).

TTT. There is a need for coordination with local law enforcement in order to assure that they are informed of the need for safety and rescue expertise (2 dots).

UUU. The advantage of a statewide trails plan and system is that smaller communities have any opportunity for recognition and participation (1 dot).

VVV. There is a need to better manage for trail-related environmental impacts and resource protection through careful selection of trail area locations, planning, design and public education (1 dots).

WWW. There is a need to simplify the complexity of the user fee and permit requirements for recreational use within the region (0 dots).

YYY. Water trail development should take into consideration the management of the fishery resource (0 dots).

ZZZ. There is a need for case study information regarding successful water trail development projects (0 dots).

AAAA. There are safety and health issues associated with bridges, sewer pipes and other waterway obstructions (0 dots).

BBBB. There is a need to identify water trail opportunities and routes within the region (0 dots).