



Oregon Statewide Trails Plan

STATEWIDE TRAILS PLAN ISSUES WORKSHOPS

NORTHWEST REGION

Portland General Public Session (Evening) 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

BBBB. There is a need for new trails within the region including loops and one-way trails (8 dots).

CCCC. Developing additional trails disperses use and reduces impacts (3 dots).

DDDD. Motorized trails should not be closed simply because they are not in managed OHV areas—especially dual sport bike trails in remote settings (3 dots).

EEEE. There is a need to address mix-use trail problems (e.g. motorized/non-motorized, motorcycle/4X4) such as safety and trail impacts (3 dots).

FFFF. There is a need for mapping of existing trails (recognized by agencies) within the region (3 dots).

GGGG. There is a need for maintenance and rehabilitation of trails (e.g. upgrading of trail bridges) within the region. This could be accomplished by making trail maintenance and rehabilitation a higher priority for the ATV grant fund (2 dots).

HHHH. There is a need for additional staffing and "Best Management Practices" to satisfy a growing demand for special events within the region (2 dots).

IIII. There is a need for better OHV "sound" management including better enforcement, user education and studies regarding sound reduction and impacts on wildlife. Sound study findings could be used to reduce noise levels and as a tool to open more areas to riding and keep sensitive areas open for OHV use (2 dots).

JJJJ. There is a need for "Best Management Practices" to repair trails after logging, riding area site selection, sound, safety and reducing user conflicts between motorized and non-motorized trail users (1 dot).

KKKK. There is a need for better and more consistent methods for estimating visitor use at managed OHV areas. There is also a need to allocate funds for developing accurate OHV use information at high-use locations in the state (1 dot).

LLLL. There is a need to develop environmental monitoring standards and provide funding for environmental assessments (including environmental impact statements) to avoid negative court decisions that could close riding areas (1 dot).

MMMM. Training safety facilities are important for motorized use in the Portland area (1 dot).

NNNN. There is a need for safety training and education for youth within the region (0 dots).

OOOO. There is a need for signing consistency between agencies and riding areas (0 dots).

PPPP. There is an increasing amount of use of ATV's by families (including children) within the region (0 dots).

QQQQ. There is a need to bring back the Back Country Discovery Route (0 dots).

RRRR. There is a need for agencies and users/volunteers to work together for trail planning, mapping and maintenance (0 dots).

SSSS. Public lands are plentiful in our great country and state. As an avid outdoor enthusiast, I enjoy many forms of recreation with my family, including hiking, hunting, fishing and motorcycle trail riding. I urge you to provide continued access and support for trails that can be enjoyed by everyone in this country, including those of us who choose to ride motorcycles. The amount of land consumed by all trails is less than one tenth of one percent of all land available. Of the trails on public lands, only a fraction of those are designated for motorcycles. I request that you exercise good judgment in representing all interests of the public, rather than a few special interest groups that focus on exclusionary tactics rather than approaches to meet the needs and interests of everyone who wants to enjoy the use of public lands. Thank you for taking my views into account (on-line comment).

Non-Motorized Trail Issues

TTTT. There is a need for maintenance of existing trails in the region. We are currently losing some trail resources through lack of maintenance (e.g. Wygant Trail and Chetwok Loop). There are also safety issues associated with the lack of trail maintenance (3 dots).

UUUU. There is a need for more trails for all user types. These additional trails would help to solve many conflicts and damage cause by overuse and help to disburse use (2 dots).

VVVV. Regarding comment UUUU, we are both hikers and equestrians. More trails, particularly trails that can be ridden all seasons or at least in the spring are needed. More trails disperse folks making it more pleasant for everyone. With continuing population growth, more trails will be needed (on-line comment).

WWWW. There is a need for education associated with multi-use conflicts, regulations, Leave-No-Trace, Tread Lightly and the presence of animals and bikes (2 dots).

XXXX. There is a need for trail connection within the region including connecting population areas, parks and open space and public facilities. There is also a need for an interconnected statewide trail system with direct OPRD administrative involvement. Key components would include the Lower Columbia River Water Trail, Corvallis to the Sea, Portland to Coast Greenway, Rogue River Trail connection to the coast and a new Oregon Trail (2 dots).

YYYY. There is a need for more long-distance and day-use Llama trails within the region—particularly in the Willamette Valley. Such trails provide low-impact backcountry opportunity for an aging population. These trails would help to satisfy a rapid growth in Llama ownership and use on trails (1 dot).

ZZZZ. Regarding comment YYYY, by Llama trails, I assume we mean trails open to stock (horses and goats as well as llamas), hikers and perhaps bicycles. More long-distance trails would certainly be appreciated in the Willamette Valley (on-line comment).

AAAAA. There are multi-use trail development opportunities in the Columbia River Gorge (1 dot).

BBBBB. There is a need for increased funding for trail acquisition, maintenance, development, planning, environmental assessment and volunteer coordination within the region (1 dot).

CCCCC. There is a need to develop new mountain biking opportunities in the region. Part of this process could involve reevaluating mountain biking access on existing trails (1 dot).

DDDDD. There may be a need for separation of certain trail uses to provide more challenging trail opportunities (1 dot).

EEEE. There are trail development opportunities in the Coast Range (1 dot).

FFFF. There is a need to look for opportunities on private lands (primarily timber company lands) and to work with and help private landowners accommodate public recreation use. Part of the solution could involve the use of user assistance as stewards for monitoring use (1 dot).

GGGG. There is a need to make completion of the Oregon Coast Trail a higher priority based on the number of visitors drawn to the trail. Additional work would include adding public access, landscape protection, maintenance, connections with existing and future trails, interpretation, and developing/implementing a pilot long-distance hiker program including user permits, facilities and services (1 dot).

HHHH. There is a need to reevaluate trails closed to equestrian use such as the 600 Trail on Mt. Hood, the Gorge Loop and the Coast (1 dot).

IIII. Regarding comment HHHHH, I would include the Ramona Falls Trail on Mt. Hood for re-evaluation for closure to horses. I cannot think of a bonafide reason to close a trail to horses other than safety. A trail rating system could solve that problem. Working with equestrian organizations to bring some other trails up to horse standards is also a very real solution. My organization, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Inc., provides thousands of hours of volunteer work on trails in this state every year (on-line comment).

JJJJ. There is a need for new long-distance trail facilities such as trail shelters and stock facilities (0 dots).

KKKK. There is a need for well-designed multi-use trails and user conflict education (0 dots).

LLLL. There is a need for low elevation trails constructed for all season use (0 dots).

MMMM. Rock is not a preferred trail surface for mountain bikers and may be a problem for Llamas (safety concerns) (0 dots).

NNNN. There is a need for good information resources such as maps, signage/kiosks, and user education (0 dots).

OOOO. There are opportunities on trails for interpretation of nature, culture and history (0 dots).

PPPP. Llamas and equestrians may have different needs, impacts, etc. (0 dots).

QQQQ. Today I led a group of llamas and their handlers on what was meant to be a 3 mile hike in Willamette Mission State Park. Since livestock are supposed to use the equestrian trails we did so. After hiking an hour we stopped for lunch by river's edge then resumed our walk. Our intent was to take the shorter inner loop putting us back to the trailhead parking area in an hour or less. However, the trail we intended to take was closed. We continued on thinking we could take the longer outer loop. After hiking 90 minutes the trail brought us to a gravel road...suddenly OUTSIDE the park. Signs marking the trail were non-existent. Yes, we could have turned around and backtracked but we were concerned about the distance back and it seemed we should have been fairly close to the trailhead. Our 3-mile hike turned into 7 miles+. We could not find any trails back to the parking area. The situation became dangerous. The day was how - well into the 90's. Our water ran out. Our llamas were exhausted, hot, and balky. Our people were sunburned, scratched, and equally tired. We came to a farmhouse and the couple living there were very kind, giving us all water and a shady patch of lawn to rest on. They told us people get lost on the same stretch of trail we were lost on - several times a week. They assured us the one and only sign was badly placed and only served to misdirect hikers - getting lost was not due to our stupidity. Our only mistake was to try to follow the last sign we saw rather than turn around and go back. To make the situation even worse, most of the length of the trail we did hike on initially was overgrown with berry vines, thistles, and stinging nettles. That might work for equestrians who sit in a saddle high above the trail letting their horses slog through the puckerbrush. But for hikers leading llamas it was hell. After hiking another 2+ miles through wheat fields filled with thistles and stinging nettles we were finally back on the main park road and eventually got to the

trailhead. Instead of an hour-long return hike it took us 4 hours of dreadful hiking to reach our cars. This entire disaster could easily have been prevented with "appropriately placed" trail direction signs and better trail maintenance. This entire episode underscores the priority point raised in the workshop I participated in - we need more signs and the trails need to be more hospitable to hikers leading livestock on foot. We were lucky - no one suffered heatstroke and we got out with only badly scratched legs. But we were not the first hikers to have this horrible experience - and I doubt we will be the last unless something is done to improve the directional signs and trails. The trails MUST be made to accommodate other users, not just people on horseback! And the few maps need to be far better detailed - what we had was woefully inadequate (on-line comment).

Water Trail Issues

RRRRR. There is a need for a Willamette River Water Trail that ties into history, culture and connects people to the past. There are also opportunities for natural resource interpretation (plants and animals) along the trail. Needed land based facilities include water access, parking, launch sites, restrooms, access to existing camping and campsite development along the river (2 dots).

SSSSS. There is a need for overnight camping facilities on the Lower Columbia River Water Trail. Until such facilities are available, long-distance paddlers on this water trail should be able to access (by reservation only) State Park day-use areas for camping (1-hour before sunset to 1-hour after sunrise) to accommodate long-distance paddlers by utilizing existing day use facilities. Each site should have a self-contained volunteer on hand to manage overnight use (2 dots).

TTTTT. There are opportunities to develop additional overnight camping facilities on the North Shore of Government Island. There are also potential interpretive opportunities on the island including the site where the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped in 1805 and in-water petroglyphs around Fishers Landing (1 dot).

UUUUU. There is a need for maps and information about existing water trails in the region (0 dots).

VVVVV. There is a need for cooperation between local communities and water trail organizations to develop plans and funding opportunities in the region (0 dots).

WWWWW. There is a need for grant funding for water trails on a par with motorized and non-motorized trail grant programs (0 dots).

XXXXX. There is a need for an outreach program to communicate to farmers that water trail interpretation is all about appreciating their way of life and culture and sharing that culture with the greater community (0 dots).

ZZZZZ. There is a need for educational guidelines for respecting individual (and corporate where applicable) landowner rights/properties along water trails (0 dots).

For additional information about the statewide trails planning process, please contact Terry Bergerson at OPRD, 1115 Commercial Street, Salem, Oregon 97301-1002, (P) 503-378-4168 X 305, (F) 503-378-6447 or (E) at terry.bergerson@state.or.us