

December 31, 2003

«FirstName» «LastName»
«CompanyAgency»
«Address»
«City», «StateOrProvince» «PostalCode»

Dear «FirstName» «LastName»:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is currently in the process of updating the Statewide Trails Plan for 2005-2014. As part of this planning effort, OPRD staff recently completed a series of 18 regional "recreational trails issues workshops" across the state. We would like to thank those who participated in these valuable workshops.

A primary objective of the workshops was to identify the top non-motorized trails issues in each of the six Trails Planning Regions. This workshop process identified the *need for non-motorized trail connectivity* as the top statewide non-motorized trails issue. Recreation providers reported that trail connectivity involves making connections between:

- urban and rural trails • public facilities, parks, and open space
- state and regional trails to community trails, and • communities.

In addition, workshop results identified that increasing non-motorized trail connectivity would result in better use of the state's existing non-motorized trail infrastructure.

Note: A full listing of issues gathered during the workshops can be reviewed on the SCORP Planning Website (http://www.prd.state.or.us/trailsplanning_regional_issues.php).

Now that the need for non-motorized trail connectivity has been identified as a key statewide issue, our challenge is to properly address the issue in the 2005-2014 Oregon Trails Plan. Towards this end, OPRD and Oregon State University (OSU) have developed a method for collecting trail inventory data from non-Federal public-sector recreation providers across the state of Oregon to identify future opportunities for connectivity. This first phase of the trail inventory data collection process is designed to identify non-motorized trails¹ of:

- "Statewide Significance" connecting major destinations such as communities and natural, cultural or historic sites of statewide or national significance,
- "Regional Significance" connecting regionally significant sites, are multi-jurisdictional, multi-use and that connect to national, state, or other regional trails, and
- "Local Significance" making important community connections to local destinations (within the community boundary) such as public lands, parks, town centers, neighborhoods and schools. For trails of Local Significance, please record a limited number of your key "user significant" trails ("high-use" trails providing the greatest benefit to the public).

Examples of trails of Statewide, Regional and Local Significance are included as an attachment to this letter and are printed on salmon-colored paper.

¹ Non-motorized trails can be used by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts, both in urban areas and the backcountry. For the purposes of this inventory, a non-motorized recreational trail is defined as a recreation pathway typically used by walkers, joggers, hikers, skiers, equestrians and bicyclists. Non-motorized trails should be purposefully used for recreation activities, but in some cases can be used for commuter purposes. Recreational trails do not include city streets or sidewalks or bike lanes incorporated into the design of city streets or rural highways.

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The purpose of this letter is to request your assistance in identifying existing and proposed non-motorized trails of Statewide, Regional, and Local Significance in your jurisdiction. The information that you provide will be used for statewide planning purposes and to determine funding priorities for OPRD administered grant programs.

After finalizing a list of all existing and proposed significant trails across the state, we will begin phase two of the inventory process. In phase two you will be asked to provide specific information (e.g. trail uses allowed, length of trail, locations of trailheads) for each significant trail that you reported in the first phase.

The Statewide Trails Planning effort also addresses a growing interest in developing additional paddling routes (water trails) on lakes, rivers and tidal affected waterways throughout the state. Water trails are typically designed for users of small watercraft such as canoes, sea kayaks, whitewater rafts or kayaks and drift boats. Like other recreational trails, water trails are corridors between specific locations. Water trails are comprised of recreation facilities including a safe place for the public to put in, parking for motorized vehicles, sanitation facilities, a safe place to take out, and in some cases day-use sites and overnight camp sites. Although water trails may be primarily developed for users of non-motorized watercraft, Oregon's waterways are open to all types of watercraft, including motorized watercraft (unless current state or federal regulations prohibit or restrict their use).

Please help us to better identify non-motorized trail systems in Oregon by completing the attached Existing and Proposed Trail Connectivity Reporting Forms (printed on green paper). In addition, please record any existing or proposed water trails that are managed by your agency/organization on the attached Existing and Proposed Water Trail Reporting Forms (printed on blue paper). Please return your completed Trail Connectivity Reporting Forms and Water Trail Reporting Forms using the postage-paid envelope provided by January 10, 2004. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Michael Wing at OSU by phone: 541.737.4009, fax: 541.737.4316 or email: Michael.Wing@oregonstate.edu.

Thank you for your cooperation with this important matter.

Sincerely,



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