



Oregon Statewide Trails Plan

STATEWIDE TRAILS PLAN ISSUES WORKSHOPS

NORTHWEST REGION

Eugene Public Recreation Provider Session (Daytime) 5/22/03

(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 complete gaps in the trail system (2 dots).
- B. There is a need to better manage access/egress to riding areas and better connect with users and share riding information. There are opportunities for agencies to work with vendors to provide information, education and provide incentives to support proper area management (2 dots).
- C. There is a need for management of unauthorized trails, new technologies (e.g. geocaching) and new activities not on designated trails and recreation areas (2 dots).
- D. There is a need to explore options to generate trail user-related revenue (2 dots).
- E. There is a need for regional coordination and information sharing between agencies for trail planning and coordinating for funding. There is a need for a regional planning process and design and construction standards for use in the region (2 dots).
- F. There is a need for more trails near population centers/urban areas in the region. Adding additional trails could help to solve many local issues such as transportation, need for exercise and user conflicts (2 dots).
- G. There is a need for more 4-Wheel Drive opportunities in a variety of trail/road types. Regional stakeholder meetings could be used to identify the types of riding opportunities 4-Wheel Drive enthusiasts prefer. Power line right-of-ways are good areas for developing such riding opportunities (1 dot).
- H. There is a need for more trails near population centers/urban areas within the region (1 dot).
- I. There is a need for properly sized staging areas with adequate support facilities within the region (1 dot).
- J. There is an opportunity for seasonal closures and other management techniques to protect resources (1 dot).
- K. There is a need for more guidance for youth involved with motorized recreation in the region. Currently, many youth are exhibiting destructive riding behavior resulting in resource damage, injuries, and other dangerous scenarios. As a result, there is a strong need for education designed to develop an appreciation and respect for the natural resources. Such an educational effort should involve incentive opportunities, allow youth to develop a sense of riding area ownership and actively engage the youth audience. There is also a need to better provide the types of riding opportunities that youth prefer (1 dot).
- L. There are opportunities for increasing public recreation on private lands (e.g. timber company lands) in the region (1 dot).

M. There is a need to manage not only the trail, but the landscape around trails to minimize erosion and movement of invasive species (1 dot).

N. The prioritization of trail development projects should be done at a regional level using a peer review process. At the local level, projects should be developed using groups such as community solutions teams to get a broader perspective on what other governmental agencies are doing which might affect trail development (1 dots).

O. There is a demand for challenge trail opportunities such as play areas and "trial" trail areas and mountain bike areas (0 dots).

P. There is a need for additional trail development/construction funds (0 dots).

Q. As the fees for recreational use grow, there is a growing need/opportunity for the private sector to get involved in providing trail facilities and opportunities (0 dots).

R. There are opportunities for seasonal closures and other management techniques to protect resources in the region (0 dots).

S. There is a need to use trails as vehicles of education and interpretation related to issues such as resource protection and appreciation, understanding of natural systems and sustainability (0 dots).

T. Trails are a key economic development tool within the region. Policy makers and planners should keep this in mind with respect to state planning, leadership, and in making resource allocation decisions (0 dots).

U. There is a need to be creative in terms of partnerships and funding (0 dots).

V. There is a need for well designed riding opportunities that take into consideration user needs and balancing those needs with clear objectives and existing resources (0 dots).

W. There is a need to ensure that the public has accurate information on motorized riding opportunities within the region (0 dots).

X. There is a need to properly plan for competitive/organized trail events. Such events must be matched with those trail resources which are designed to handle such use. Many trails are not designed to handle such intensive trail use (0 dots).

Y. Regarding comment X, I would agree that organized events take a specialized area. Some areas seem to be overused for this type of thing causing damage that never seems to bounce back (on-line comment).

Z. Liability is a deterrent to private-sector provision of motorized riding opportunities in Oregon. Currently, if a private-landowner charges a fee for recreational use they can be held liable for damages and injuries occurring on their lands (0 dots).

AA. There is a need for additional law enforcement in the region. The fire season may be a good model for the level of enforcement that is needed (0 dots).

Non-Motorized Trail Issues

BB. There is a need for funds for acquisition of fee title, easements and land exchanges (5 dots).

CC. There are opportunities to engage private conservancies, foundations and land trust organizations as partners and providers in trail planning, development, management and maintenance. Such groups should also be involved in regional and statewide trails planning efforts (4 dots).

DD. There is a need for additional funding for trail and trail corridor maintenance (3 dots).

EE. There is a need for interpretation/education opportunities on trails including historical, cultural and natural themes. There are also opportunities to engage school-age children and others in trail-related interpretation/education through service learning and other learning opportunities (2 dots).

FF. Recreational trails are a key economic development opportunity within the region. Policy makers and planners should consider this in state planning and resource allocation (2 dots).

GG. There is a demand for more accessible nature-based trails and a uniform rating system for describing trail accessibility information to the public (2 dots).

HH. There is a need for more trails near population centers/urban areas in the region. Adding additional trails could help to solve many local issues such as transportation, need for exercise and user conflicts (2 dots).

II. There are opportunities for increasing public recreation on private lands (e.g. timber company lands) in the region (2 dots).

JJ. There is a need to address conflicts on multiple use trails through design, site selection, planning and education (2 dots).

KK. There is a need for connectivity in trail systems (completing gaps in the trails systems) and connecting local/regional parks and open space (1 dot).

LL. There is a need for regional coordination and information sharing between agencies for trail planning and coordinating for funding. There is a need for a regional planning process and design and construction standards for use in the region (1 dot).

MM. There is a need for additional trail development/construction funds (1 dot).

NN. There is a need to manage not only the trail, but the landscape around trails to minimize erosion and movement of invasive species (0 dots).

OO. There is a need for more equestrian trails near population centers/urban areas in the region (0 dots).

PP. Regarding comment OO, I am handicapped. I broke my leg very badly in a "non-horse" accident. I can no longer walk or hike for any long distance or over rough terrain. My horses, on the other hand, can. They can take me where I cannot go on my own. One of my favorite local rides is Elijah Bristow State Park. Recently, a sign was posted there saying the park would close to us from October through May. This is the only "handicap accessible" place I have found locally where I am able to ride on my own. There have been "erosion issues" and "downstream fish" issues raised by the park ranger to try and justify these closures. I have ridden there in October and November...and even after a long summer of use, I have not seen evidence that the park, river, or trails have suffered at all from the use of the equestrian trails. As for the "downstream fish" issue, that is ridiculous!! We are not causing any uproarious event in the river!! The state officials should be looking to their own for that type of damage...like the after effects of the work done at Cougar Reservoir. the McKenzie River was BROWN for over a year downstream from there. That probably impacted the rivers fish population...I know it ruined the fishing for a good long time. Elijah Bristow was endowed to the state of Oregon as an EQUESTRIAN park. Year round...and should remain that way. Much of the maintenance of the trails and other areas of the park are taken care of by local equestrian groups. We riders need MORE parks, MORE trails, and MORE consideration for those of us who are not physically capable of enjoying them without our 4-legged companions. Please try to consider the REAL impact the closure of the park for 6 months of the year on my life, and the lives of others like me. I am inclined to believe that the decision was made by "one" when it should have been considered by "many." One or two officials do not voice the view of the public...and true "owners" of State Lands (on-line comment).

QQ. Regarding comment OO, as trail riding opportunities shrink, our organization is trying mightily to make horse traffic as responsible as possible and contribute man-hours, tools and when possible, materials to maintain and improve trails and campsites so that we are not squeezed out of the recreation picture altogether. Horse

owners spend a good deal of money in Lane County on supplies and equipment and should be welcome on established horse friendly trails and camps (on-line comment).

RR. Regarding comment OO, we are very concerned about the recent closure sign placed at Elijah Bristow State Park, stating horses will be prohibited from the park during the winter. This park is an EQUESTRIAN Park and one of the few places where we can regularly ride all year. Our OET chapter has work parties there to help maintain the trails. Why has this arbitrary decision been made without prior public input and notification (on-line comment)?

SS. There are opportunities for seasonal closures and other management techniques to protect resources (0 dots).

TT. There is a need for public land managers to develop clear objectives related to trail management intentions and to articulate those objectives simply and clearly. These objectives must be carried through planning and implementation. Finally, there is also a need to take a regional view on how to best provide trail opportunities (0 dots).

UU. There is a need for management of unauthorized trails, new technologies (e.g. geocaching) and new activities not on designated trails and recreation areas (0 dot).

VV. There is a need to use recreational trails as vehicles of education and interpretation related to issues such as resource protection and appreciation, understanding of natural systems and sustainability (0 dots).

WW. There is a need for more safety/security at trailheads—particularly trailhead parking lots (0 dots).

XX. There is a need to be creative in terms of partnerships and funding (0 dots).

YY. There is a need to address impacts associated with competitive/organized trail events. Such events must be matched with those trail resources designed for such a use. Many trails are not designed to handle such intensive use (0 dots).

ZZ. There is a need to explore options to generate revenues associated with trail use (0 dots).

AAA. Liability is a deterrent to private-sector provision of trail opportunities in Oregon. If you charge a fee for recreational use you can be held liable for injuries/damages occurring on private lands (0 dots).

BBB. The prioritization of trail development projects should be done at a regional level using a peer review process. At the local level, projects should be developed using groups such as community solutions teams to get a broader perspective on what other governmental agencies are doing which might affect trail development (0 dots).

CCC. There is a need for consistent/uniform signage and a way to develop multi-agency information coordination (0 dots).

DDD. There is a need for more safety/security at trailheads—particularly trailhead parking lots (0 dots).

EEE. There is a need for information resource coordination including maps, regulations, signage and providing trail users with information to make informed decisions (0 dots).

FFF. As the fees for outdoor recreation use grow, there is a growing need/opportunity for the private sector to get involved in providing trail facilities and opportunities in the region (0 dots).

GGG. There is a need for an informational clearinghouse for trail design, maintenance, interpretation and accessibility (0 dots).

HHH. There is a need for additional trail enforcement (0 dots).

III. There is a need to address conflicts on multiple-use trails through design, site selection, planning and education (0 dots).

JJJ. There is a need for additional law enforcement in the region (0 dots).

KKK. There is a need for a universal recreation pass system within the region. The current fee and pass system, where each agency requires their own payment, is extremely confusing to the public (0 dots).

LLL. There is a need for public land managers to develop clear objectives related to trail management intentions and to articulate those objectives simply and clearly. These objectives must be carried through planning and implementation. Finally, there is also a need to take a regional view on how to best provide trail opportunities (0 dots).

MMM. There is a need to understand and capitalize on transportation and recreation projects through better coordination in planning, project development and funding (0 dots).

NNN. There is a need for coordination at the state level that matches funds with projects. OPRD administers a variety of grant funding programs (LWCF, local, ATV, and RTP). Applicants often have a difficult time deciding which pot of money to go after for their project. OPRD should provide guidance at the statewide level to match projects with dollars so that everyone has the best chance to succeed in getting funding. OPRD should also provide information about the timing, content and requirements of the grant programs and to allow applicants to better understand grant funding priorities (0 dots).

OOO. There is a need for historical, cultural and natural interpretation/education opportunities on trails. There are also opportunities to engage school-age children in trail-related interpretation (service learning and other types of learning opportunities) (0 dots).

PPP. There is a need to understand and capitalize on transportation and recreation projects through better coordination in planning, project development and funding (0 dots).

QQQ. There is a demand for challenge trail opportunities such as "trial" trail areas and mountain bike areas (0 dots).

Water Trail Issues

RRR. Trails are a key economic development tool within the region. Policy makers and planners should keep this in mind with respect to state planning, leadership, and in making resource allocation decisions. There are opportunities for collaboration with local chambers of commerce and the tourism industry regarding water trail marketing. For example, whitewater users are interested in more full-service "family" packaged trips (4 dots).

SSS. There is a need for access to waterways within the region. There are also opportunities to work with private landowners regarding waterway access (3 dots).

TTT. There is a need for clarification on navigability issues relating to water trail management and design. There is an ongoing conflict between the navigability, recreation use, environmental protection and public safety (2 dots).

UUU. There is a need to manage not only the trail, but the landscape around trails to minimize erosion and movement of invasive species (2 dots).

VVV. There is a need to design water trails to accommodate specific types of uses (non-motorized) and the natural character of the waterway. The water trails toolbox needs to be expanded to address these non-motorized types of uses (2 dots).

WWW. There is a need for more safety/security at trailheads and parking lots within the region (2 dots).

XXX. There is a need for regional coordination and information sharing between agencies for trail planning and coordinating for funding. There is a need to develop a regional trails planning process including design and construction standards (2 dots).

YYY. There is a need for coordination at the state level that matches funds with projects. OPRD administers a variety of grant funding programs (LWCF, local, ATV, and RTP). Applicants often have a difficult time deciding which pot of money to go after for their project. OPRD should provide guidance at the statewide level to match projects with dollars so that everyone has the best chance to succeed in getting grant dollars. OPRD should also provide information about the timing, content and requirements of the grant programs and to allow applicants to better understand grant funding priorities (1 dot).

ZZZ. There is a need to use water trails as vehicles for the education and interpretation of issues such as protection and appreciation of the resource and understanding of natural systems and sustainability (1 dot).

AAAA. There is a need for funding for water trail planning and development (1 dot).

BBBB. There is a need for user information regarding where to go for paddling opportunities, regulations and to market paddling opportunities (0 dots).

CCCC. Water trail development leads to impacts on shorelines and waterways associated with adjacent properties. There is a need for guidance to assist with access design that is compatible with the natural environment and does not conflict with motorized users. It is difficult to manage where people access waterways due to changing shoreline conditions. Users typically end up accessing at a point where the river allows access at a particular point in time (0 dots).

DDDD. There is a need for case study information showing successful development projects both inside the state and in the U.S. (0 dots).

EEEE. There is a need for a water trails advocacy organization within the state (0 dots).

FFFF. There is a need for integrated trail system planning to accommodate the shuttling of vehicles and how to handle emergency situations (0 dots).

GGGG. There is a need for a hierarchy of water trail opportunities depending on the amount and types of use (e.g. family/single kayaker). As a result, there is a need for varied levels of improvements and services associated with specific situations (0 dots).

HHHH. There are opportunities for vendors and services associated with water trail development such as guided trips and shuttles (0 dots).

IIII. There is a need for information resources coordination including maps, regulations, signage and providing trail users with information to make informed decisions (0 dots).

JJJJ. As the fees for outdoor recreation use grow, there is a growing need/opportunity for the private sector to get involved in providing trail facilities and opportunities in the region (0 dots).

KKKK. There is a need to address conflicts on multiple-use trails through design, site selection, planning and education (0 dots).

LLLL. There is a need to understand and capitalize on transportation and recreation projects through better coordination in planning, project development and funding (0 dots).

MMMM. There is a need for historical, cultural and natural interpretation/education opportunities on trails. There are also opportunities to engage school-age children in trail-related interpretation (service learning and other types of learning opportunities) (0 dots).

NNNN. There is an opportunity for shared use of scuba diving/ snorkeling and non-motorized boater access facilities in the region (0 dots).

OOOO. There is a need to be creative in terms of partnerships and funding (0 dots).

PPPP. There is a need to address impacts associated with competitive/organized trail events. Such events must be matched with those trail resources designed for such a use. Many trails are not designed to handle such intensive use (0 dots).

QQQQ. There is a need to explore options to generate revenues associated with trail use (0 dots).

RRRR. Liability is a deterrent to private-sector provision of trail opportunities in Oregon. If you charge a fee for recreational use you can be held liable for injuries/damages occurring on private lands (0 dots).

SSSS. The prioritization of trail development projects should be done at a regional level using a peer review process. At the local level, projects should be developed using groups such as community solutions teams to get a broader perspective on what other governmental agencies are doing which might affect trail development (0 dots).