



## Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

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# Minutes

Friday, January 18, 2019  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Bandon Conference and Community Center  
1200 11<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest  
Bandon, OR 97411

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### Housekeeping

Attendance: Lauralee Svendsgaard, Coast Representative  
Jim Thayer, District 1  
Joe Kresse, District 2 (Vice Chair)  
Robert Spurlock, District 3 (Chair)  
Rod Sell, District 4  
Del Scharffenberg, District 5  
Skyler Archibald, Coast Representative

OPRD Staff: Jodi Bellefeuille, RTP and ORTAC Coordinator  
Holly Emery, Administrative Specialist  
MG Devereux, Deputy Director  
Daniel Killam, Deputy Director of Administration  
Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation  
Terry Bergerson, Outdoor Recreation Planner

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Other Attendees: Larry Becker, State Parks South Coast District Manager; Jenna Marmon, ODOT Region 3 Active Transportation Liaison; Dave Lacey, Destination Coordinator, Oregon Coast Visitor's Association; Jon-Paul Bowles, Destination Management Advisor; Stephen DiCicco, Rivers and Trails Ranger, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest; Matthew Weintraub, Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition; Casey Nielsen, State Parks Park Manager; Nick Schoeppner, State Parks Park Manager; Brian Dao, State Parks Beach Ranger; RJ Rapelje, State Parks Beach Ranger; Kevin Urban, City of Coquille; Ed Kessler, Ptarmigan P Trails and Wild Rivers Coast Mountain Bike Association; Erin Kessler, Pineapple Express Adventure Rides; Emily Bradley, Main Street Coordinator, Reedsport Main Street Program; Brian Kraynik, South Coast Tours

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Agenda Item: Approval of October 2018 Minutes (Action)  
Presented by: Robert Spurlock

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October ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve October 2018 minutes by Joe Kresse.  
Seconded by Skyler Archibald.

Motion carried unanimously.



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Agenda Item: Council Member Announcements

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Robert provided an update on Metro's trail bridge projects.

Lauralee provided an update on storm damage to the Amanda Trail and planned restoration projects.

Jim gave an update on upcoming Salmonberry Trail meetings.

Joe provided an update on the Joseph Branch Trail and its related controversies, and an update about a new trail concept planned to connect Hilgard to La Grande

Skyler gave an update about the new Klootchey Creek Mountain Bike Trails, made possible through a partnership between the North Coast Trail Alliance and Greenwood Resources. The trails fill a needed gap for mountain biking on the coast.

Del gave an update about new bridges in Clackamas County and talked about his recent experience on the Tualatin River Greenway Trail.

Rod provided an update about Build Lebanon Trails' recent volunteer day and shared newly developed educational brochures geared towards children.

Jodi shared that OPRD is currently recruiting for a Trail Planner position, that an online Oregon Coast Trail survey is open through January, that the RTP grant cycle will open April 1, and that the Local Government Grant Program is currently open. An update was also shared about upcoming vacancies for ORTAC members.

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**Local Agency / Trail Advocate Updates**

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Agenda Item: OPRD South Coast Trails Update: Oregon Coast Trail, Humbug (Information)  
Presented by: Larry Becker, South Coast District Manager

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The presentation gave an overview of State Park trail projects or planning in the south coast area. Related to the Oregon Coast Trail, a meeting was held in November to discuss next steps for identifying and addressing gaps. A public meeting in December followed and a team meeting is scheduled for February 28.

Trails at Port Orford were recently improved to address erosion and dangerous areas. An overview was provided of a project in progress to improve the Humbug Mountain Trail and restore the historic scenic views. View shed improvements are scheduled to be made soon. Trail tread improvements and storm damage cleanup are expected to be completed in spring 2019 with the help of a youth corps. State Parks' wildlife biologist and forester are working together to insure no loss of important habitat trees. Signs, benches, and mile markers are also planned.

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Agenda Item: Oregon Coast Bike Route Plan (Information)  
 Presented by: Jenna Marmon, ODOT Region 3 Active Transportation Liaison

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An overview was provided of the Oregon Coast bike route, a popular world class destination, designated in the early 1980's by the Oregon transportation commission. The majority of the route is on Hwy 101, about 380 miles long.

ODOT's effort to evaluate and plan improvements has been going on for about a year. An online open house is open through January 31. The baseline standard is for a "competent recreational cyclist" however there is a design need for the more typical (less confident) cyclist. The route maintenance is of highest importance to users. The goal of the plan is to improve maintenance of shoulders, develop more northbound connections, develop connections to transit, offer more amenities including bike parking, and improve safety and comfort for drivers all levels of cyclists. Developing the plan will make a better case for funding and support. Visit [oregoncoastbikeroute.org](http://oregoncoastbikeroute.org) for more information.

Questions:

Have you looked into bike storage options?

- A gap analysis has been completed but this has not been addressed yet. There are some bike lockers in Medford but they are often used for housing or personal storage.

How have local bike shops been engaged?

- In the south coast area, some bike shops are engaged and have offered resources to cyclists like bike storage or emergency repairs.

Is there any plan to connect to inland coastal communities?

- There is definitely opportunity to add value to trips and those communities could use the tourism boost.
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Agenda Item: Deans to Dunes Trail Plan (Information)  
 Presented by: Jenna Marmon, ODOT Region 3 Active Transportation Liaison

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The Dean to Dunes Trail Plan is designed to connect the community of Reedsport to Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, and to surrounding natural resources and activity centers. A pedestrian safety assessment has been conducted for sections with Reedsport. A Federal Lands Access Program grant was applied for and will likely be denied. ODOT and the city will continue to apply for funding and pursue widening the separated path.

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Agenda Item: Coquille Water Trail and South Coast Rivers Paddle Guides  
 Presented by: Dave Lacey, Destination Coordinator, Oregon Coast Visitors Association

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The Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA) is leading efforts to seek federal water trail designation of the Coquille River and develop a paddling guide for south coast area rivers. A steering committee has been established.

The federal designation of the Coquille River Water Trail is currently on hold due to the local political climate.



OCVA is holding community paddles on the Coquille and other rivers so users can experience lesser known parts. Infrastructure is being developed in ports and parks for water trail access. The association is working on promotional videos for paddling and also expanding the kayak launches. The World Paddling Film Festival will be held in Coos Bay in April. Travel Oregon is working on a major initiative for water trails.

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Agenda Item: Whiskey Run Trail System  
Presented by: Jon-Paul Bowles, Destination Management Advisors, Coos County Partner

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Thanks to broad community support, Coos County's new mountain biking trail system is 13.5 miles long currently and will be increased to 30 miles. The Wild River's Coast Alliance, Travel Oregon, and OPRD's Recreational Trails Program contributed funding. The Youth Corps is also a partner. A regional trails plan was created from this and the goal is to create and market the experience to boost local tourism. Coos County has been an incredible partner. Ed Kessler, trail builder for the project, shared his perspective and positive experience working on the project. Erin Kessler shared updates about events happening on the trails, including an all-women's ride.

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Agenda Item: Lower Rogue River Trail  
Presented by: Steve DiCicco, Rivers and Trails Ranger, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

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An overview was provided about a recent restoration project of the Lower Rogue River Trail, funded in part by a Recreational Trails Program grant. The trail is popular with mountain bikers and the restoration improved access and experience. An update was also provided about the recent Chetco Bar and Klondike/Taylor Creek wildfires, impacts to trails, and plans for recovery. The Siskiyou Mountain Club is receiving a RTP grant to restore trails impacted by the Chetco Bar fire.

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Agenda Item: Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition (OMBC) Update  
Presented by: Matthew Weintraub, OMBC

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OMBC was recently formed through collaboration between 16 regionally located mountain bike groups who came together for a statewide mountain bike summit in 2017. A steering committee has been formed, governance established and statewide needs identified: advocacy, communication, trail stewardship, and capacity building. The OMBC will hold a legislative day on February 27. Statistics were also provided on the numbers of mountain bikers in Oregon, economic impact of mountain biking, and significant volunteer contributions and trail stewardship efforts off the mountain bike community.

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Agenda Item: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)  
Presented by: Terry Bergerson

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Terry provided an overview on the newest SCORP, anticipated to be finalized and approved in spring 2020. The plan makes a case for additional non-motorized funding in Oregon and shows significant statewide demand for





The support of the department and commitment to ORTAC’s work was emphasized. As part of the ongoing discussion, the idea of a facilitator was further discussed. It was suggested that ORTAC have some involvement with the OPRD Commission. OPRD is committed to improving their communication and members were thanked for their honesty and feedback. Leadership looks forward to the planning process, understanding where ORTAC fits into the department’s trail planning and trails community, and grappling with changes to our park system and trail community needs.

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Agenda Item: OPRD Structure, Committees, and Trail Planning (Information)  
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

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Jodi provided an overview of OPRD’s current structure, trail systems, trails budget, and trail planning process. Opportunities were highlighted where ORTAC could potentially be involved, including sitting on master plan committees or providing recommendations for who should sit on the committees, providing public comment on master plans, providing letters of support for State Parks and other entities seeking funding for significant trails, providing constituent feedback to OPRD, and when applicable to trails, sitting on rulemaking committees or providing public comment. Moving forward, Jodi will work with Planning and Design staff to provide trail related information at meetings and offer opportunities for input.

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Agenda Item: Reconfirmation of Council Members (Action)  
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

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Jim Thayer, Congressional 1 Representative, and Lauralee Svendsgaard, Coast Representative, have moved out of their respective district or coastal bordering county. Per ORTAC bylaws, members who move may complete their term if approved by ORTAC.

Motion to accept Jim Thayer as ORTAC’s Congressional District 1 representative for the remainder of his term by Lauralee Svendsgaard.

Seconded by Joe Kresse

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to accept Lauralee Svendsgaard as one of ORTAC’s coastal representatives for the remainder of her term by Rod Sell.

Seconded by Del Scharffenberg.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Agenda Item: 2019 ORTAC Schedule (Information)  
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille



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An overview of the updated 2019 schedule was provided including the Doug Newman award schedule and April's meeting on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

OPRD plans to call for new ORTAC member applications in May. Members were asked to send any recommendations to Jodi and let their networks know about the opportunity. Questions were raised about redistricting and interpretation of the statute. Those questions were tabled and the recruitment will proceed as planned.

Members volunteered for three planned trail reviews in 2019: Willow Creek Canyon, 40 Mile Loop, and Humbug Mountain Trail which had to be cancelled due to storms. Jodi will follow up to schedule these.

The next meeting is expected to include a vote on the City of Eugene's Management Plan for the Ridgeline Trail, a proposed Regional Trail.

Rod suggested an e-bike tour of Lebanon's trail system in conjunction with the August meeting. Jodi will follow up.

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Agenda Item: Update on Office of Outdoor Recreation (Information)  
Presented by: Cailin O'Brien-Feeney

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Cailin provided an update about OPRD recently being tasked with assisting federal land managers during the shutdown. The Office's committee is being formed to develop strategic plans for recreation policies and initiatives. He is also conducting meetings and listening sessions to inform their priorities.

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Agenda Item: Oregon Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Information)  
Presented by: Robert Spurlock

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Robert shared that a rulemaking committee has been convened to evaluate the Connect Oregon program, which funds bike-ped trails.

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Agenda Item: Oregon Trails Coalition (OTC) & Oregon Trails Summit (Information)  
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

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Lauralee shared that OTC recently accepted the nomination for four new board members and that the formal advisory committee is recruiting members. Contact Steph Noll or Steve Krueger if you are interested. Lauralee is on the board and Jim is on the advisory board. Steph Noll continues to plan regional meet-and-greets for the trails community.

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Agenda Item: Scenic Bikeways Program (Information)  
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille, Lauralee Svendsgaard

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Kitty Weisman has been hired as the new Scenic Bikeways and Scenic Waterways Coordinator, starting March 11. 2019 is the 10 year anniversary and a policy maker bike ride is being planned.

Lauralee shared that she is stepping down as ORTAC's representative on the Bikeways committee. ORTAC will need to appoint a new representative at their April meeting. Del is interested.

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Agenda Item: Scenic & Regional Trail Designation Program (Information)  
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

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Jodi is planning to draft a survey to send to land managers that have a designated trail in their jurisdiction. Results will help OPRD and ORTAC reevaluate the program.

Questions were asked about OPRD's marketing of the program, State Parks marketing of their designated trails, and signage. The OPRD website has a page on its public facing website but it was noted that the logo is not on specific park websites. Jodi has shared a list of designated trails with OPRD's communications division and the logo is expected to be included when individual park brochures are updated. Conversations may be needed with Travel Oregon about marketing and the survey will inform whether marketing is an identified need or if overuse is a concern. The survey will also ask everyone about signage and OPRD will send signs to the appropriate land manager if needed.

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Agenda Item: Miscellaneous discussions, comments (Information)

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It was asked if there is any news on the Oregon Historical Trails Advisory Council and who is taking over their work. OPRD staff did not have news but there were suggestions about who to follow-up with.

Jodi shared that two new members have been appointed to the RTP committee: Travis Williams, Water Trail Representative and Director of Willamette Riverkeeper and Kim McCarrel, Equestrian Representative and Vice President of Public Lands for Oregon Equestrian Trails.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.