



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

Friday, May 4 2018
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Klamath Falls City Hall
500 Klamath Ave
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Housekeeping

Attendance: Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair and District 5 (Coast Representative)
Jim Thayer, District 1
Joe Kresse, District 2
Robert Spurlock, District 3
Del Scharffenberg, District 5

OPRD Staff: David Stipe, OPRD Staff
Jan Hunt, OPRD Staff
Jodi Bellefeuille, OPRD Staff
Nicole Sprecher, OPRD Staff

Other Attendees: Zach Gilmour – Zach’s Bikes, Drew Honzel – Klamath Trails Alliance, Jennifer Gifford – Crater Lake National Park, Renee Patrick – Oregon Desert Trail, Anthony Benedetti – USFS, Michael Schaefer – Klamath Trails Alliance member

Agenda Item: Minutes (Action)
Presented by: Lauralee

January ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve January minutes by Robert, with the condition to correct an error.
Seconded by Jim.

Motion carried unanimously.



Local Agency / Trail Advocate Updates

Agenda Item: Oregon Desert Trail & Oregon Natural Desert Assoc. (Information)
Presented by: Renee Patrick

Presentation covered the upcoming Oregon Desert Trail, a 750 mile route that is located on public lands in the southeastern corner of the state. The trail can be explored on foot or on horseback, boat, or bike.

Questions:

Jim – Are there GPS files for the trail?

- Yes, all of those files are available online.

Robert – Did you make those maps yourself? How long did it take to do the whole thing? Is it easy to use the resources on the site to break the hike into small pieces?

- No, we actually have a GIS specialist in the office that does all the map work. About six weeks, it was about 790 miles total. Yes, there are several day loops available on the website, and it's getting easier to navigate smaller pieces.

Jodi – Are you getting push back from land managers about promoting this as a trail even though the assessment hasn't been done?

- We actually have a lot of support, and they're excited about having a trail. We are trying to look at this as an intelligent use trail, and most of the trails we were following in the Owhyee were cow and horse trails.
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Agenda Item: Klamath Trails Alliance (Information)
Presented by: Drew Honzel

Presentation covered the Klamath Trails Alliance including past and present trail projects that have occurred in the Klamath Falls area.

Questions:

Lauralee – When was the alliance established? You had mentioned that you have used travel dollars to make these maps, is that from Travel Oregon or from local tourism groups?

- It was established in 2012. We are lucky that we have a local tourism group that gives up to \$25,000 for grants, and they have been a great resource.

Robert – What is the relationship between KTA and IMBA?

- We are an associate member of IMBA, but we are a multi user club. We have a great relationship.



Jim – Where are you looking for your target audience besides Klamath Falls area, and how are you reaching them?

- Most of our tourism comes from California, and we get some visitors from Medford and Bend as well.

Agenda Item: Fremont-Winema National Forest (Information)
Presented by: Anthony Benedetti

Presentation about the Fremont-Winema National Forest including an overview of the forest, management issues, trail projects and relationships with local trail groups.

Questions:

Lauralee – Can you tell us more about the users, and what you have noticed in terms of trends, how many people and what kind of uses?

- We have a mixed user group, and the most popular in the fall is hunting and fishing. Hikes and equestrians utilize our trails as well, along with ATV groups and Jeep clubs. Things have been increasing slowly, but with the future implementation of the permit based system in the Deschutes we should start to see more use trickle down into the area.

Jodi – Have you seen any increase of use based on the promotion of the Timber Trail?

- Yeah, I know their members are really using the trail. At the end of May, the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance is going to start work on another trail, and with the groups getting more involved it's going to see more use.

Robert – What would the ideal staffing number be, and your ideal budget?

- For budget I'm not sure, as far as staffing, it just depends on the people and their personalities. 4 to 6 additional trail staff members would be great.

Agenda Item: OC&E Trail (Information)
Presented by: Del Scharffenberg & David Stipe

Presentation about the review of the OC&E Trail that was reviewed by Planning + Design staff David Stipe, and ORTAC member Del Scharffenberg.

Jim – Process question, so you submit these hazards to OPRD, but do you get a report back about the items we have noticed, so we can have some closure?

- Yes, I can ask to have that done from our field staff.

Agenda Item: Crater Lake National Park (Information)
Presented by: Jennifer Gifford



Presentation about Crater Lake National Park’s Trails Program covering topics such as their current trail system, trail management plan and issues such as fire, and other trail projects.

David – If I buy my annual pass at the park, do the funds stay at that park?

- Yes, we retain 80% of that.

Robert – You mentioned the trails management plan, and the idea of not moving forward on a trail around the whole rim, why is that?

- It’s a very popular idea with the public, and we do have a trail that goes around ¼ of the lake. We went back and forth between cultural and natural resources about impacts with natural resource issues, and the idea is really frowned upon by our natural resources staff.

Joe – Is there talk of a trail around the lower portion of the park, like Mt. Hood or Mt. Rainier?

- Yes, there has been talk but it is within spotted owl habitat, and we didn’t think it would be very popular based on terrain and lack of a view.

Agenda Item: RTP Program Update (Information)
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

Presentation that included an overview of the RTP Program along with information about funding, eligible projects and applicants, along with a summary of 2017 projects.

Jim – Have you had any applications for the Salmonberry Trail? Are you expecting any?

- I have not, and I haven’t heard anything.

Council Business Items

Agenda Item: OPRD Staff Update (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe & Jan Hunt

ORTAC will move under the Grants & Community Programs Section, and the staff contact will be Jodi Bellefeuille.

Agenda Item: Office of Outdoor Recreation Update (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe

Tentative interviews for the position will occur in May.



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

The latest meeting was last month, and there are lots of bike/ped projects coming up in the next couple of years. Funding for Connect Oregon will come from bike excise tax, and lottery funds. Eventually OBPAAC will become a grant review board, but there is no funding yet for the program. In the next couple years more funding will become available, and there are already a couple multi-million dollar projects in the works in rural Oregon.

Agenda Item: Oregon Trails Coalition and Summit (Action)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

There was a question from the Summit Board as to whether OPRD would sponsor the 2018 Summit again, and the question has been delegated to ORTAC. The issue is finding the funding to donate money to sponsor the event. Ultimately, it was decided that monies would come from the CARD Section, Grants Section, and Planning + Design Section.

Robert moved that ORTAC recommend that OPRD contributes \$7500 to the Oregon Trails Summit, and explore the idea of an additional \$2500 from OPRD to donate at the Department's discretion.

Joe seconded, and motion passed.

Agenda Item: SCORP Update (Information)
Presented by: Jim Thayer

The next SCORP meeting will be later this fall, and the final SCORP should be released in 2019. The committee is currently developing criteria to evaluate/inventory trails, facilities, and amenities.

Agenda Item: Regional & Scenic Trail Designation Management (Action)
Presented by: David Stipe

Lauralee moved that ORTAC responds based on the current conditions the application cannot move forward, and will clarify what they need to do in order to be reconsidered.

Del seconded. Motion passed.



Agenda Item: Scenic Bikeways Report (Information)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

The Crooked River Canyon Scenic Bikeway has been designated by the OPRD Commission. The Bikeways Proponent Conference is going to be in October. The committee is planning for the 10 year anniversary, along with updating the strategic plan. They are going to be reviewing the Grande Tour Scenic Bikeway in La Grande next month.

Agenda Item: Water Trail Designation (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe

Currently, there is not designation process in place, and it appears that it would have to become a legislative concept, and OPRD would have to open rulemaking. David suggests that ORTAC concentrates over the next year and a half on getting reviews up to date before launching a new program.

Agenda Item: Oregon Coast Trail Update (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe

Robin will provide an update at the October meeting, as she will be further into the action plan of the Oregon Coast Trail.

Agenda Item: Bylaws (Information)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

By the July meeting, Lauralee would like that everyone have read them so they can make a motion to accept them at that meeting.

Agenda Item: Doug Newman Award (Information)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

The 2018 nomination has been selected, and ORTAC will treat the 2018 Doug Newman award recipient as confidential.

Agenda Item: Coastal Representative Vacancy (Information)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard



There is a fair amount of interest in the position, and the council is hoping to address some user gaps and diversify the council.

Agenda Item: E-Bikes (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe

There is a public meeting next week in Warrenton, and comments on the rulemaking are due on the 18th of May. There were questions as to whether or not the council should advise the Department, but after further discussion the council agreed to not comment as a group. Individuals could send comments as a private citizen.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Council Site Visits

Saturday, May 5, 2018
9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

A walking tour of the OC&E Trail was completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 p.m.
