



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

Friday, February 21
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Beverly Beach State Park, Meeting Hall Yurt
198 NE 123rd St
Newport, OR 97365

Housekeeping

Attendance: Jenna Beh, Coastal Representative
Skyler Archibald, Coastal Representative
Robert Spurlock, District 3, Chair
Joe Kresse, District 2, Vice Chair
Owen Rodabaugh, District 1
Fraser MacDonald, District 4
Del Scharffenberg, District 5

OPRD Staff: Jodi Bellefeuille, Jayme Jones, Michele Scalise, Jody Matz, Robin Wilcox,
and Jered Mangini

Other: Michael Rionx, Luke Haworth, Josh Durham, David Powell, Steph Noll, Jody Stecher,
Jesse Dolin, Bob Langley, Calica Ali, Gary Chapman, and Bob Rogowski

Agenda Item: October 2019 Minutes **(Action)**
Presented by: Robert Spurlock

October 2019 ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve October 2019 minutes by Del Scharffenberg.
Seconded by Skyler Archibald.

Motion carried unanimously.



Program Updates

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

Staff and small groups of ORTAC members will need to schedule three trail reviews in 2020.

Ridgeline Trail: Regional Trail Designation for Eugene's Ridgeline Trail is still pending. The City applied in 2015 and ORTAC gave initial approval to move the designation forward. The next step is for the City to submit a management plan for ORTAC's review. If accepted, OPRD will need to hold a public meeting on the designation before submitting ORTAC's recommendation to the OPRD Committee for formal approval. The City is holding off on the management plan for now.

Saddle Mountain: In fall 2018, State Parks hired Ptarmigan Trails to assess Saddle Mountain, a designated Scenic Trail. The assessment identified a punch list of issues that need to be addressed, including sections that have washed out or need to be rerouted. The park management unit is in preliminary discussion with Trailkeepers of Oregon to start addressing some of the worst issues.

Oregon Coast Trail (OCT): The majority of the OCT was designated as a Scenic Trail in 2014, excluding any gaps in the trail. Questions have been raised about how ORTAC and OPRD will incorporate new sections of trail into the designation as connections have been and continue to be made.

Humbug Mountain: The trail was damaged in a windstorm in December 2019 and repairs have been made. An update from Jody Matz was provided. Northwest Youth Core was able to repair windstorm damage, keep original tread and trail is now open.

Willow Creek Canyon: A designated Regional Trail was removed from the list of designations on OPRD's website. The County will need to address property ownership and access issues before we will put it back on the website.



Agenda Item: Scenic Bikeways Program **(Information)**
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille & Del Scharffenberg

Previous Update: The Scenic Bikeways & Waterways position has been moved to OPRD's Planning + Design division. A job posting will be released once the P + D manager position is filled.

New Update: Robin Wilcox has successfully competed to be the next manager for the Property, Planning, and Design Group. Robin has worked for OPRD for several years in the roles of statewide trail coordinator and senior planner. Robin brings a solid mix of experience with projects both inside and outside of OPRD. The PPD group is a newly formed group that brings together property staff, existing planning and design staff, and the scenic bikeway and scenic waterway programs.

Capitol Event: A Scenic Bikeways celebration is planned for Monday, February 24 in the Capitol Galleria.

Aufderheide Scenic Bikeway: Administrative rule requires that ORTAC consult on new Bikeway designation proposals after the Bikeways Committee has recommended them for designation, and before forwarding to the OPRD Commission for approval. A proposal to designate the Aufderheide Scenic Bikeway has been on hold while road and land managers addressed the Bikeway Committee's concerns. It is expected to be ready for ORTAC's acceptance later in 2020.

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

Community Paths Grant Program: recently announced and will be accepting applications soon. A webinar was recently held. We are still working through details about the program such as refining the grant selection criteria, how the scoring and ranking process will work.

The purpose of the program is to fund bike and pedestrian facilities that are in communities but that are outside the road right of way. The challenge right now is that most of the funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is constrained to projects within road right-of-way, based on how the State Constitution is written.



Funding sources include state lottery revenue. Much of the funding is the same source that was part of the Connect Oregon Program. Stay tuned for more announcements about this grant program.

Robert is staying on as the ORTAC representative to OBPAC. His term ends in a year and a half from now.

OBPAC is focusing a lot on equity work. Racial and social equity work, the intersection between equity and transportation, and applying an equity lens to bicycle and pedestrian transportation facilities and funds.

Comments/Questions:

How much funding will be available for Community Paths and over what time period?

- Approximately \$14M is available over three cycles.

Agenda Item: OPRD Grant Programs

(Information)

Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

Recreational Trails Program: The 2020 grant cycle will open on April 1. Recently completed projects include an accessible boat dock and kayak launch in Tillamook, reroutes along the Pacific Crest Trail in Jefferson Park, new community trails in John Day, and new mountain bike trails in the Ochoco National Forest. 51 other trail projects are in process or will begin soon.

Local Government Grant Program: The grant cycle is currently open. In response to HB2592, up to \$1M will be set aside for bike-ped projects that have both transportation and recreation benefits. An OBPAC member will be added to the grant committee through 2024.

Land & Water Conservation Funds: OPRD's new LWCF Coordinator, Nohemi Enciso, started on January 21. The grant cycle opens on February 24.



Agenda Item: Office of Outdoor Recreation
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

(Information)

Current projects or priorities include:

- Finalizing work of the Governor’s Task Force on the Outdoors. Recommendations will be presented to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission and Governor Brown in April. Read the draft recommendations here:
https://www.oregon.gov/orec/Documents/2020-01_Gov_Task_Force/2020_01_23_DRAFT_Framework.pdf
- Wrapping up an outdoor recreation economic impact study. This project is in partnership with Travel Oregon + Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife, and will provide information both by recreation type as well as at the county level.
- Leading state outdoor recreation planning related to the Klamath Dam removal
- Monitoring 2020 state legislative session
- Upcoming project with grants team – potentially updating statewide recreation funding resources to a more user-friendly format.
- Co-lead 2020 Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit program development with Steph Noll, Oregon Trails Coalition
- Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit: October 19-2020, Mt. Hood Oregon Resort, Welches OR

Agenda Item: 50th Anniversary of the Recreation Trails System Act
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

(Information)

The Capitol Galleria has been reserved on April 21, 2021 for a celebration of the anniversary.

Initial plans are being discussed for the event and related press. A group of staff and key stakeholders will meet soon to sketch out the detailed plans.



Agenda Item: Cazadero State Trail **(Information)**
Presented by: Robert Spurlock

Metro has acquired 18 forested acres along the North Fork of Deep Creek in Clackamas County. The property is bisected by the creek and includes approximately 1,700 feet of creek frontage. Additionally, the purchase of the property protects a scenic stretch of forest land adjacent to the developing Cazadero trail. Metro paid \$845,000 for the property.

Community Update

Agenda Item: Beverly Beach Management Unit **(Information)**
Presented by: Jered Mangini-OPRD

Jered welcomed ORTAC and meeting attendees to Beverly Beach. Current projects at Beverly Beach Management Unit include improving trail connections along Otter Crest. The County is currently paving the road. OPRD's long term goal is creating connectivity with boardwalks and upgrading our trails to make them 100% accessible.

Agenda Item: Corvallis to Sea **(Information)**
Presented by: Gary Chapman

On National Trail Day, June 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. the C2C Trail will have a grand opening ceremony.

The Western Half of the C2C Trail is now open.

Agenda Item: Trailkeepers of Oregon **(Information)**
Presented by: Josh Durham

Partnered with OCVA to help close gaps and increase stewardship maintenance on the Oregon Coast Trail. Current projects include the Neahkahnie Gap which is scheduled to open June 20, 2020. Working with 4 different land owners and land management agencies to close the gap of the south side of the Neahkahnie Mountain. Working with the Forest Service to open Cascade Head around Summer 2020. Volunteer agreement in place with the Harris Beach Management Unit to open the Samuel Boardman Corridor between Gold Beach and Brookings to help do



some uplift and maintenance. Training opportunities coming up both on the Coast and in the Cascades.

Feb 28-March 1, 2020: Leadership Summit in Rockaway Beach. Sessions will be on safety, inclusion, volunteer experience and strategic plan.

March 20-22, 2020: Technical school on timber work and installing box steps to finish off the Neahkahnie Gap trail.

Agenda Item: Oregon Coast Visitors Association & Oregon Coast Trail Foundation **(Information)**

Presented by: Jesse Dolin

The Oregon Coast Trail Foundation's (OCTF) purpose is to solicit, receive and distribute funding for projects that improve and maintain the physical aspects and infrastructure of the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT) and connecting recreational trails, as well as to provide marketing and information relative to the OCT and connecting trails.

Totalling approximately 425 miles when walked in entirety, it is helpful to divide and think about OCT in 10 sections, with each section covering roughly 35-45 miles each. See all 10 sections at: <https://www.oregoncoasttrail.org/>

What the Oregon Coast Trail foundation does: Trail maintenance and stewardship, water taxi fund, directional and interpretive signage, public information campaign about wild and sensitive areas and public art installations.

Question/Comments:

Run into any issues with specific business?

-Yes. It happened with a recent video project. I included that business on the next project and they closed the following month.

Is the long-term plan for OCVA to manage the OCT maps?

-It will be a collaborative process but we want it to be a one stop shop. The maps we have on the OCT foundation website are downloadable. Some updates are needed.

Are you looking at the website to be a hub for branching out to other websites?

-Yes. We have lots of links on our website.



Agenda Item: Oregon Coast Trail Action Plan
Presented by: Robin Wilcox

(Information)

Brief History:

- 1971- Plan for the Oregon Coast Trail developed by Sam Dicken.
- 1975- Columbia to Tillamook Bay OCT segment designated and opened.
- 1988- OCT declared “hikeable” from Oregon border to border.
- 2011- “Oregon Coast Trail: Connection Strategy” published
- 2017- House Bill 3149 passed.

House Bill 3149 requires Oregon State Parks to develop an Action Plan for completing gaps in the Oregon Coast Trail, in cooperation with ODOT, local governments, and advocates. The Action Plan will identify a preferred route, prioritize safety, and establish maintenance and operation needs and responsibilities. The Connection Strategy serves as the starting point for OCT needs.

Statewide Partners Group (Landowners): US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Tribal Representatives, League of Oregon Cities representative, North Coast Segment representative, Central Coast Segment representative, South Coast Segment representative.

North, Central, and South Coast Partners are invited individuals who represent an organization or agency that owns or maintains property that may become part of the Oregon Coast Trail. Partners will sign a Declaration of Cooperation and commit to financial support for some aspect of Oregon Coast Trail construction or maintenance.

Gap working group members represent individuals and organizations with knowledge regarding potential gap solutions. These individuals work cooperatively to help identify potential gap solutions. User group representatives (hiking clubs, trail maintenance organizations), trail advocates, and private property owners may be involved at this level.

Question/Comments:

Do you have any plans to work on the Beaver Creek restoration conservation area?

- Yes. State Parks was working on opening a new campground at Brian Booth, that is not currently happening but we are continuing to move forward with a day use facility.



In the last few years nice pieces of property were purchased up in the Beavercreek restoration area. Is this part of OPRD jurisdiction?

- Yes. Some of the property is OPRD and some is separate. But its not directly tied to Oregon Coast Trail.

In places where you need easements from private property owners, does OPRD negotiate that and hold the easement?

- So far most of them yes. There are sections where the city has easements, example being City of Manzanita. Surprisingly there isn't many easements, only a handful.

Will Shore Acres or Sunset Beach area ever be part of the Oregon Coast Trail or will it require too much private property acquisition?

- There's one really large private property and there is a couple places where it has been developed. Long term that would be a scenic alternative route.

Agenda Item: ORTAC's 2020 Schedule and Activities

(Information)

Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille

May 6-8, 2020- John Day. Jodi added an event under the Schedule section on Basecamp. Navigate to the meeting dates in May and you can add it to your calendar. Once you do you can customize your travel times and other details.

July/August 2020- The Dalles or Hood River. Doodle Poll coming.

October 19-21 2020- Welches-Oregon Trails Coalition will likely be holding an open advisory board meeting before or after the conference. Consider having ORTAC join for this and having a brief business meeting before/after.

Five-year reviews: Interest in 2020 five-year trail reviews.

- Banks-Vernonia: Skyler, Del, Owen
- Sterling Mine Ditch: Fraser, Robert, Del, Jenna
- Bear Creek Greenway: Jenna, Joe, Skyler, Owen, Fraser

Agenda Item: Oregon Trails Coalition Updates

(Information)

Presented by: Steph Noll



2020 Webinar Series:

Oregon Trails Funding Webinar: January 31, 2020

Oregon Trail User Education Webinar: February 26, 2020

Signature Trails Webinar: March 30, 2020

Submitted a proposal to BLM and OPRD for developing a resource guide called Ready Set Shovel. The guide will help trail advocates and trail groups understand land manager considerations around planning, environmental assessment and design. Hoping to develop a digital guide but first in webinar form.

The 2020 Oregon Trails Summit will be held in conjunction with the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit. **Oct 18-21, 2020. Hood Oregon Resort. Welches, OR.**

Sunday, October 18th- Trail Stewardship Event with Trailkeepers of Oregon and Mt. Hood National Forest

Monday, October 19th- Conference Sessions and opening Reception

Tuesday, October 20th- Conference Sessions and Community Updates open-mic

Wednesday, October 21st- Oregon Trails Coalition Annual Meeting

A goal of the Coalition is to have at least one advisory board member who represents ORTAC. Lauralee and Jim were ORTAC's reps through 2019. ORTAC could consider nominating someone at the next meeting. Otherwise there are other open seats that anyone could apply for: <https://www.oregontrailscoalition.org/advisory-board>.

Federal Policy work: Our goal as a coalition is to preserve and increase trail funding in Oregon. Most of our advocacy is based on that investment goal. Developing federal budget appropriation request right now. Desire around specifically the CMTL fund of the forest service which covers road and trail investments.

Just yesterday we delivered a letter to Congressman DeFazio regarding the federal transportation bill re-authorization making four requests within that. First, the FLAP program there is a separate fund that handles transportation needs within federal lands which is FLIP. There is a new request that 5% of the FLIP budget for transportation within federal lands be dedicated to active transportation. It wouldn't be exclusive to trails but could be for sidewalks or bike lanes.

The second request is around Recreation Trails Program funding. RTP is funded from fuel tax for recreational vehicles. That number hasn't been studied for decades. Estimates are that according to the original formula, the program should be receiving more than three times the



funding that it currently receives. This Bill ask for a study and ask that we increase RTP funding to what our estimates are.

The provision is included in Senate Bill 2302, America’s Transportation and Infrastructure Act. A standalone companion bill was re-introduced in the house, H.R. 5797, the RTP Full Funding Act of 2020. The Coalition recently sent a letter to DeFazio’s office in support of the house bill. More info located in basecamp, February Meeting Follow-Up, attached email from American Trails.

State Policy work: Our Advisory Board decided to formal endorse the Voluntary Search and Rescue bill. We know that counties responsible for search and rescue often lack the resources. Most of our State policy work has been focused on the Governor’s Task Force of the Outdoors. We’ve provided input on a number of their policy recommendations.

Agenda Item: Signature Trails Initiative **(Information)**
Presented by: Robin Wilcox

The goal of the initiative is to elevate pride and prosperity for Oregon communities across the state.

Elements of a Signature Trail: Iconic places, scalable experiences, consistency, lodging, transportation, cultural amenities, and trip planning resources.

Iconic landscape: provide access our most special places for Oregonians.

Scalable experiences: won’t rise to the level of a signature trail if there isn’t a multi-day experience available. Signature trails provide scalable experiences for different kinds of trail users or families.

Consistency: consistently maintained.

Transportation: public or private transit services available.

Lodging: Options within a day’s journey are an essential part of the signature trails experience.

Maps and Apps: trip planning resources and distance charts.

If anyone besides Fraser is interested in working on the Signature Trails initiative, let Jodi know. It doesn’t sound like anything is happening right away, but Travel Oregon will eventually convene the larger working group.

Questions/Comments:

Where do you see ORTAC fitting in at this point?



- Are you interested in elevating it? Our goal is not to create a new designation. Signature trails is not meant to be another designation. Its meant to be a lens for looking at collaboration. Is this exciting? Does this feel like something ORTAC should be engaged in?

Agenda Item: Election of officers for 2020 **(Action)**
Presented by: Robert Spurlock

Motion to recommend Owen Rodabaugh for chair by Skyler Archibald.
Second by Jenna Beh.
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to recommend the reappointment of Joe Kresse for Vice Chair by Jenna Beh.
Seconded by Owen Rodabaugh.
Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item: HB2592 and State Parks Bicycle-Pedestrian Projects **(Information)**
Presented by: Jodi Bellefeuille, Jody Matz, Robin Wilcox

House Bill 2592: Requires OPRD to allocate up to \$4M a biennium for bicycle and pedestrian projects through January 2025. Half of this will be allocated through the Local Government Grant Program. The other half will be allocated to State Park projects on signature, scenic, or recreation trails.

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 736, Division 9: Directs ORTAC to review and provide input on State Parks' investment priorities (not the LGGP portion).

Introduction of OPRD Trails Planner, Jody Matz. Started in August 2019. Previously worked for Forest Service doing trail work. Jody picked up a number of Oregon Coast Trail projects, including the installation of trail counters, updating and ordering signage, working with the Northwest Youth Corps on OCT related projects, and working on an OCT related RTP grant.

A list of proposed, in progress, and completed projects was presented to ORTAC. OPRD planning staff will report to ORTAC on a quarterly basis.



Question/Comments:

So exciting to be getting these regular updates.

It was clarified how non-State Parks funding towards projects is shown on the report.

Surprised at how low the cost is for some of these projects.

- Yes, we do a lot of work with park staff and volunteers. Some of the projects only show costs for materials.

I would like to see Cazadero Trail projects added to this list. is there any kind of process that ORTAC could be a part of for identifying which projects get added to this list for future biennium?

- Those projects will start to appear in the proposed projects list. We are reevaluating the process for how projects are proposed. There is not enough funding for the need and we only have 5 staff in the Planning + Design unit. We need to maximize our efforts. We really need to build a robust trail services program so we're not throwing darts at a wall.

Just to clarify, this update is just informational for us? You are not looking for opinions?

- Right now, this is the first time we have put together this spreadsheet for ORTAC. Your opinions are welcome. This process will evolve as we all work together.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.
