

Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission

June 18, 2025

Agenda Item: **5d**

Information

Public Comment Allowed: **Yes**

Topic: **Salmonberry Trail**

Presented by: **Alice Beals, Property Agent**

Background:

The Port of Tillamook Bay railroad once connected the Willamette Valley to the Oregon Coast on an 84-mile rail corridor formerly owned by Southern Pacific. This rail corridor runs from Banks to the Port of Tillamook Bay Industrial Park through the canyon of the Salmonberry River and the Tillamook State Forest. This unique passage, which is referred to as the Salmonberry Corridor, has a rich history, an outstanding scenic context and has the potential to connect urban and rural Oregon.

SB 1516 was passed by the 2014 Legislature and required OPRD and ODF, in cooperation with other interested state agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders, to develop a plan to construct a trail along or adjacent to the portion of the former railroad line between Banks and Tillamook. In 2015, Oregon Solutions provided a governance report, identifying Ownership/Leadership tasks; Manager/Operational tasks; and Trail Support Tasks common to managing trail systems and that same year, the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency (STIA), a multi-jurisdictional agency, was established under ORS 190.010(5) to plan the development and maintenance of a multi-use trail within the Salmonberry Corridor.

In 2016, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) issued a decision accepting the STIA's request for a Notice of Interim Trail Use ("NITU") under 16USC 1247(d), thereby "banking" this rail corridor, allowing for this interim use until such time as this rail line may be needed again for rail service. With this approval from the STB, the Port of Tillamook Bay leased their railroad right-of-way, located between milepost 775.01 near Banks, Oregon and milepost 856.08, near Tillamook to STIA for use as a Trail.

Over time, STIA's primary role was defined as enabling and overseeing the development and maintenance of the Salmonberry Trail. The Salmonberry Trail Foundation (STF), established in 2019, took on a primary role in fundraising and cultivating partner support for the development, operation, management, and maintenance of the Trail. STIA and STF and others who have a mutual interests in this trail, have worked together on the planning, development, and management of the Salmonberry Corridor as a multi-use, non-motorized recreation trail.

In 2024 STIA conducted a review of operations and determined that a formal advisory committee, under the leadership of OPRD, should replace the existing Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency.

STIA will disband as an Intergovernmental Agency. In connection with this disbandment, there will be a request to the STB for approval of OPRD to become the trail manager and to the Port to allow STIA to transfer their lease agreement to OPRD.

As the Leasee of the Salmonberry Trail Corridor, OPRD will establish, and Chair, a Sponsor Committee to provide leadership, continuity and collaborative oversight of the Salmonberry Trail. Members of this committee may include OPRD, Oregon Department of Forestry, Tillamook and Washington County, STF, Port of Tillamook Bay, Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde, Explore Tualatin Valley and other local governments and organizations (i.e., Trail Champions) that may have beneficial resources to contribute to the Salmonberry Trail.

No action on the part of the Commission is anticipated to be needed for these activities.

Prior Action by Commission:

Information provided March 2012 on long term property acquisition potential

Information provided January 2013 Directors Update

Information provided April 2013 on completion of feasibility work

Information provided Nov 2013 on first planning meetings

Information provided April 2014

Information provided February 2015

Affirmed Draft Concept Plan. (11/2014), Approved IGA creating the STIA (6/2015)

Information provided September 2016

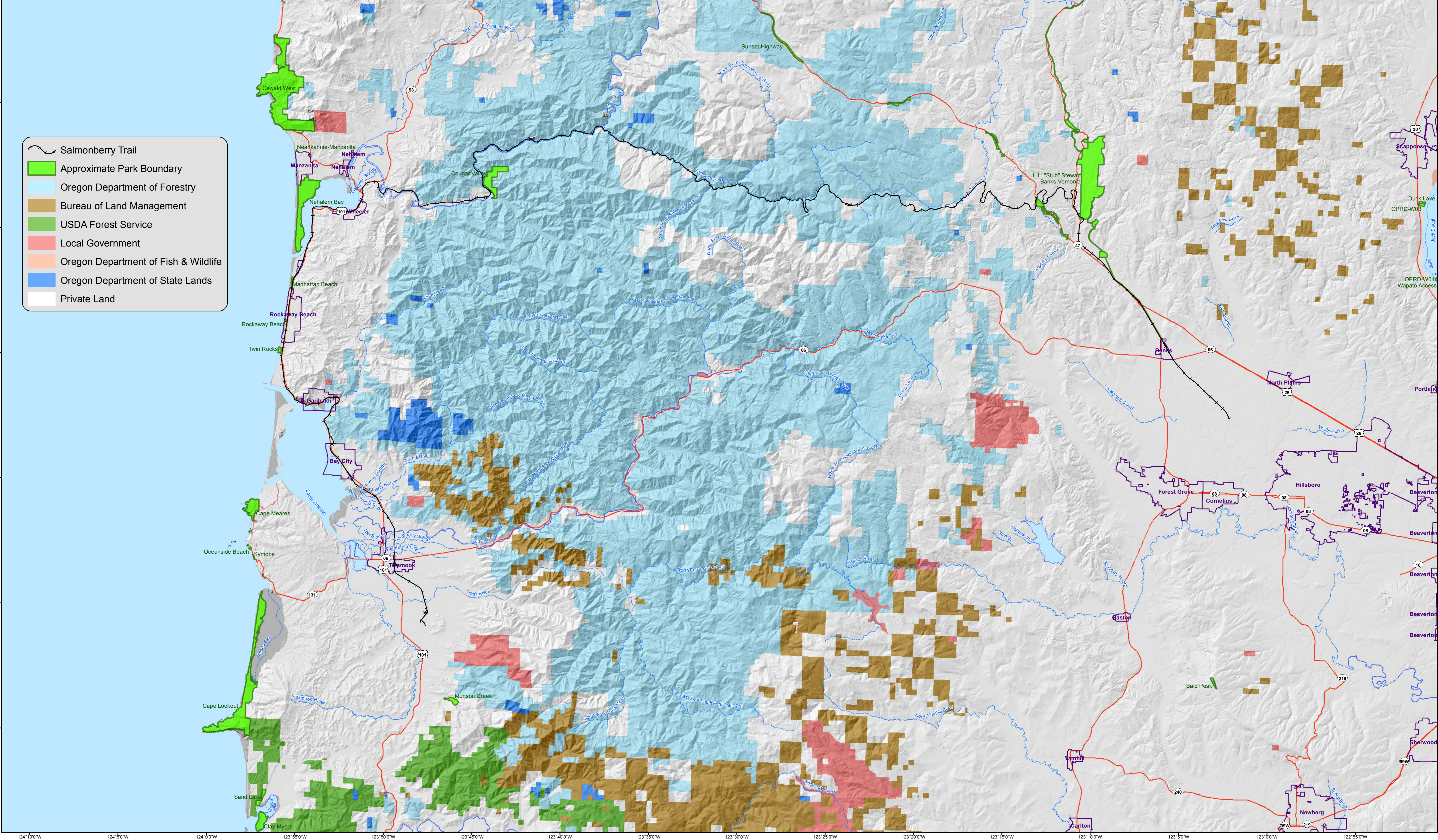
Action Requested: None

Attachments: 5e Attachment A Map

Prepared by: Alice Beals

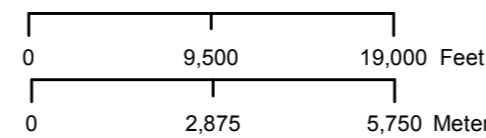
Salmonberry Trail - Major Public Ownership 5d Attachment A

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