

OREGON HISTORIC TRAILS ADVISORY COUNCIL

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) serves as an advisory body for activities and policies relating to Oregon's 16 Historic Trails. OHTAC consists of nine citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor by Executive Order 98-16. OHTAC typically meets three times annually. These meetings consist of:

- (a) On site research of a segment of one of Oregon's 16 Historic Trails. Experts and local residents are invited to accompany the membership in order to contribute information and perspectives on the history, use and protection of the segment in question.

- (b) A business meeting to update the membership on various OHTAC related activities and to plan for future events. All OHTAC business meetings are open to the public and time is set aside on the agenda for public comment.

OHTAC members also participate in a variety of additional activities, including meetings, teleconferences, webinars and site inspections in order to assure that the organization's responsibilities are fulfilled.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2013

Work Session with State Parks and the State Historic Preservation Office was held in Salem.

OHTAC was represented at the Capitol for the Preservation Month Fair on May 30, 2013

Toured areas of the Jedediah Smith Route in the Coos Bay area including the Massacre Site area on the North Bank of the Smith River.

Toured sections of the Barlow Road including a portion that is on private property west of Tygh Valley. The route from White River Canyon to the Barlow Summit was included.

Toured a section of the Nez Perce Trail which included the descent down into Dug Bar on the Snake River in the Hells Canyon.

Monitored projects that may have impact on the trails (ex. Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line project)

Lindon Hylton and Billy Simms were appointed to the Council by the Governor.

2013 Meetings

Salem, Oregon - March 22, 2013, Work Session at State Historic Preservation Office.

The meeting was organized by Cara Kaser, Heritage Outreach Specialist with the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept. who is the liaison to the Oregon Historic Trails Council. The Council is made up by nine volunteer members each appointed by the Governor. The day was productive for the council. We were introduced to personnel of both the OSPR and the SHPO office.

Coos Bay, Oregon - April 19-21, 2013, Field Trip: Jedediah Smith Route

This gathering emphasized the route of the Jedediah Smith Route of 1828 and the "Incident" (or massacre) Site on the North side of Smith River that occurred on July 14, 1828. We toured the approximate area of the south to north crossing of Coos Bay to the North Spit where the Smith party camped on July 10, 1828. The field trip was hosted by Wayne Knauf of the Jedediah Smith Society. There was discussion about the need for signage that could be located at the highway across the water from the massacre site. Visitors could be directed from Highway 101 to this location which is owned by the State of Oregon. The suggested location is off of the Smith River Road just south of where it is intersected by Stables Road. There exists an old turn-out on Smith River Road. It is hoped an interpretive sign might be installed to recall the moment in history that was heard around the nation in 1828.

The business meeting was held at the Coos Bay Public Library on April 21, 2013. Reports and discussion included continuing monitoring of projects that could have impact on the Trails.

Gresham, Oregon - July 12- 14 2013, Oregon National Historic Trail (Barlow)

This outing centered on the route of the Barlow Trail with emphasis from Tygh Valley to Mount Hood. Members observed and discussed the route of all three historic trails (Klamath, Fremont and Barlow) coming from the north down into Tygh Valley. The Council toured the private property of Mr. Pat Davis west of Tygh Valley. Remnants of the Barlow Trail are very evident and Mr. Davis is open to ideas to allow the public to experience this reach of the trail. We continued west and observed evidence of the trail. Much of the route is along FS Road 48. We visited Gate Creek Meadow and observed footings of one of the structures that was there for the purpose of collecting a toll on the road. Wendell Baskins was the tour leader for this excursion.

The business meeting was held July 14, 2013 in the Board Room of the Howard Johnson's Motel in Gresham. Discussion included the continuing of the monitoring the B2H project.

Some council members (Leta and Wendell) reviewed files related to OHTAC information at SHPO office in Salem.

Letters of appreciation to Cascade Stream Watch and Pat Davis were sent in August. A Letter to encourage the movement and relocation of the Meek Marker at Emigrant Springs State Park was sent.

A letter was sent to State Parks encouraging them to confer with OHTAC before removal of trail related signs. Signs were removed at the Washburne Wayside Park. The council recommended that Sam Woolsley be appointed as Chair of OHTAC for 2014 and also that Jim Ford be appointed VP for 2014 after which he would be recommended as the Chair for 2015.

Cara Kaser, with the State Historic Preservation Office was helpful in providing the group with a recorder for use for meetings.

Enterprise, Oregon - September 6-8, 2013, Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

The Council met in Enterprise the evening of September 6 at the Wilderness Inn. That evening was spent with a pre field trip discussion with Tim Nitz, Unit Manager of the Nez Perce National Historic Park. We offered to be of assistance with letters of support for advancing public knowledge of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and it's protection.

The next day, Saturday Sept 7, was spent hiking and observing a segment of the trail from a point some 3 to 4 miles west of Dug Bar to Dug Bar on the Snake River. Our guides for the day were Tony King, Zone Archaeologist for the Wallowa Whitman National Forest based in Joseph, Oregon. In addition, Dick Seymour guided us on this day in the field.

It was a strenuous hike and much of the trail is suspected of being part of the original Nez Perce Trail. We learned that this area of encampment and the use of this general location of crossing the Snake River at Dug Bar had been utilized by the Nez Perce for hundreds of years or more.

We visited the town of Imnaha where there is an interpretive sign that is in need of refurbishing or replacing. It is a sign on private land that includes the USFS Logo.

The business meeting was held Sept. 8, 2013 at the conference room of the Wilderness Inn Motel in Enterprise, OR. A number of issues were discussed and reviewed:

Emigrant Springs/ Meeker Marker Relocation: We support the moving of the Meeker Marker from its present location to another that will be more appropriate for visitors. A letter to OPRD was written and mailed.

Land Swap: We support the idea of a land swap between OPRD and Hancock Timber Insurance which owns land adjacent to the park. The land has existing ruts and would enhance the significance of the site.

Recruitment for potential OHTAC Council Members: The Governor makes these appointments and looks to our council for recommendations and the group.

Projects with potential impact on the 16 Oregon Historic Trails

One of the activities of OHTAC is to monitor projects within the state that may or may not have impact on the trails. One of those is the proposed Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line. The council has participated with the planning of this project.

During 2013 members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council continued to participate with many others in the development of the Programmatic Agreement that will guide archaeologists and researchers as they do field study on the potential routes and alternatives for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line. The study results will guide Idaho Power workers as the transmission line is planned and constructed to move wind power from North-central Oregon to Southwestern Idaho. During the year a series of webinar/conference calls continued as did additional face to face meetings as well as making sure the agreement met all federal regulations and requirements of both states. The work will continue in 2014 .

Council Members 2013

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|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Wendell Baskins | Loren D. Irving (chair) |
| Connie A. Colton | Leta J. Neiderheiser |
| James R. Ford | Sam H. Woolsey |
| Glenn R. Harrison | |
| John R. Hayes | |
| Lindon B. Hylton | |