



Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council

Minutes

Friday, July 20, 2018

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Officer's Mess Hall at the Port of Tillamook Bay

6825 Officer's Row Rd

Tillamook, OR 97141

Housekeeping

Attendance: Lauralee Svendsgaard, Chair and District 5 (Coast Representative)
Joe Kresse, District 2
Robert Spurlock, District 3
Rod Sell, District 4
Del Scharffenberg, District 5

OPRD Staff: David Stipe, Planning + Design Manager
Jan Hunt, Grants & Community Programs Manager
Carrie Lovellette, Planning + Design Assistant

Other Attendees: Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation; Donna Hammond, Chair, Oregon Equestrian Trails, North Coast Chapter; Dani Pavoni, U.S. Forest Service Recreation Lands & Heritage Program Manager, Siuslaw National Forest; Randy Peterson, Recreation Program Manager, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Tillamook State Forest and Forest Center; Dennis Wiley, Salmonberry Project Manager, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; Marcus Hinz, Director, Oregon Coast Visitor Association; Peter Dalke, Project Manager, Association of Oregon Counties, Oregon Solutions; Robin Wilcox, Senior Parks & Trails Planner, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; and Jenna Berman, Active Transportation Liaison, Region 2, Oregon Department of Transportation.

Agenda Item: May 2018 Minutes (Action)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

May 2018 ORTAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion to approve May 2018 minutes by Del Scharffenberg.
Seconded by Joe Kresse.

Motion carried unanimously.



Local Agency / Trail Advocate Updates

Agenda Item: Oregon Equestrian Trails (Information)
Presented by: Donna Hammond, Chair, Oregon Equestrian Trails, North Coast Chapter & Washington County 4-H Wagon Train

Presentation was an overview of Oregon Equestrian Trails and the activities and events put on by the North Coast Chapter, including trail building, maintenance, user education, legislative monitoring, and public engagement. An overview of the Washington County 4-H Wagon Train was provided, which is an educational group that organizes backcountry wagon trips for youth.

Questions:

How long has the wagon train been running?

- It's been running for 38 years, and the first year it was three weeks long.

How do you pay for it?

- Lots of volunteers and costs \$225 per person for one week plus \$35 per horse for the non-invasive hay.
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Agenda Item: U.S. Forest Service, Siuslaw National Forest (Information)
Presented by: Dani Pavoni, Recreation Lands & Heritage Program Manager

Presentation provided an overview of the Siuslaw National Forest, which has areas especially popular for hiking and OHV use. An overview of current and upcoming projects and initiatives was given, including an outdoor ambassador program, trail guides, improvements to the Kentucky Falls trail, improvements to OHV trails in the dunes, upcoming construction of a segment of the Corvallis to Sea Trail, improvements to the Drift Creek Falls trail, plans to open a section of the Oregon Coast Trail at Cascade Head, developing plans to expand non-motorized trails in the Sand Lake area, coordinating with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde to link trails between their land and the Forest, and trail planning efforts at Cascade Head through NPS' RTCA program.

Questions:

What is the process to reviewing logging roads and determining which ones will be closed?

What input is used to assess those roads for non-motorized trails?

- NEPA includes a public outreach process and environmental assessment. The public outreach is a one year process. Then we let folks know that if they have interest to let us know. We have worked with Boy Scouts & the new Tillamook mountain bike alliance.

What outreach is done to the trails community to see if there could be better utilization of roads?



- No roads are closed without the public process.

Who do you reach out to?

- Whomever we can find.

What about bigger groups – IMBA, etc?

- We have met with them but there are thousands of places and we try to connect with local constituents. Part of the reason we close trails is due to problems such as drainage. If there are users that take care of them, we keep them open. We try to do what we can to facilitate between users.

Agenda Item: Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Tillamook State Forest (Information)
Presented by: Randy Peterson, Recreation Program Manager

Presentation covered Oregon Department of Forestry’s motorized and non-motorized trail systems by district, including popular trails in the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests and less used trails in the Santiam State Forest. ODF is considering sustainable ways to respond to overuse of popular trails and trailheads.

Questions:

There is a shooting range next to a trail I hiked – was it on forest land?

- Yes, and that is a situation we are addressing. We are thinking of moving it from Brown’s Camp to the North District. We have created shooting lanes for safety of people and avoidance of fires. With that, we’ve seen a reduction of people trying to find their own place to shoot. We do not have a lot of authority since it is up to the legislature.

Due to the fires in the Gorge, is there an increase of use in your area?

- Last fall there was an increase right after the fire but generally no. Use on the Wilson River Trail has increased quite a bit.

Agenda Item: Salmonberry Trail, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (Information)
Presented by: Dennis Wiley, Project Manager

Presentation covered an update on the Salmonberry Trail and the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency. The project is expected to be completed in small phases due to size and cost. A lease has been put in place with the Port of Tillamook. STIA completed a master plan for the coastal section in 2017 and the valleys section will be completed summer 2018.

Questions:

Have you had any success in getting federal money?

- No, but there is interest and we are only in the planning mode.

Did you look at the Hiawatha Trail?



- We have reached out to several people.

Were the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy involved?

- We want to do it locally, and they feel we are doing everything right.
- There is an active scenic rail on the Coastal section so the intent is to have the trail next to the rail, and there are also rail riders.

How far north from Wheeler do the rail riders travel?

- About a two hour trek.

Nehalem River gravel road – are you adding additional trail?

- It is not planned yet and we have not decided.

What about the right-of-way lines?

- We have located the right-of-way through GIS but there are a number of areas that have moved around a lot and Highway 101’s right-of-way is overlapping.

Agenda Item: Oregon Coast Trail, Oregon Coast Bike Route (Information)
 Presented by: Marcus Hinz, Director – Oregon Coast Visitor Association
 Peter Dalke, Project Manager – Oregon Solutions
 Robin Wilcox, Senior Parks & Trails Planner – OPRD
 Jenna Berman, Region 2, Active Transportation Liaison - ODOT

Presentation covered Oregon Coast Bike Route, and Oregon Coast Trail including its governance, action plan, and connection opportunities.

Bike Route: An estimated 6,000-10,000 cyclists ride the Oregon Coast Bike Route every year. An overview of infrastructure and program improvement efforts was provided. ODOT recently completed a survey of cyclists who have ridden the route. There is overlap in the Bike Route and OCT planning efforts.

Questions:

When does ODOT expect to have the study completed?

- Don’t know specific date, 2-2.5 years. Implementation will be later but the study is already informing them to help improve projects in process. Looking at projects already planned for 2021-2024 to work in bike route improvements.

Does Region 2 cover the entire coast?

- Astoria to Florence. Jenna Marmon is the Active Transportation Liaison for southern coast.

OCT: A management team has been formed. A history of the Oregon Coast Trail was provided. Currently the focus is closing the gaps that require hikers use the road, and leaving the beach sections on the beach. Phase 1 has been looking at original gap strategy and expanding it to include other problem areas, including high tide restrictions. Gaps in the trail are being prioritized. Signage and map improvements are being considered and planned. OPRD is



coordinating with transit agencies and communities and ODOT who have OCT projects planned or in process.

Peter provided an overview of the partners, land managers, and entities involved in the planning efforts.

Marcus gave an overview of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association. OCVA worked with Outdoor Project to develop a draft OCT map and hiking itineraries for hiking small segments. They are developing Google flyover maps for each segment and are working with marine reserves to integrate their information in the maps, including seasonal habitat restrictions. An Oregon Coast Trail Foundation is being formed.

Questions:

When is the first public meeting for the OCT?

- November 2018, dates TBD. They will have meetings in different areas in the coast and valley. There will also be an online comment period.

USFS commented that the lack of online presence about the trail has made it hard to answer questions. Curious how most hikers plan their trip. Staff talk to hikers and have learned about books and other resources. Will the effort include a definitive OCT route?

- Yes, the plan includes making a definitive route. State Parks had some maps but they have not been updated and are not detailed. Most people use multiple books and an online resource. The Siuslaw NF has good maps within their land at Cape Perpetua. OPRD's signage has been inconsistent but has improved over the last few years. OPRD also received legislative approval to have additional beach and trail rangers that will continue to help. The signage is better north-south, but PCT hikers who were re-routed in 2017 comments that it was challenging coming south-north. Moving forward OCVA will be who land managers and land owners contact when map updates are needed. The maps may include multiple routes so hikers have the option to take a business route, beach route, water taxi route, etc. OPRD's strategy also includes looking at the lack of camping opportunities, bathrooms, and more.

Council Business Items

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

Cailin O'Brien-Feeney, OPRD's Office of Outdoor Recreation Director, was introduced to the council. Cailin will be coordinating the state's outdoor recreation policy across agencies,



between public and private sectors, and cooperate with organizations that have a vested interest in seeing Oregon's outdoor recreation reach its fullest potential in every corner of the state.

Questions:

How can ORTAC help you?

- Ways for him to help improve the process.

What is your biggest challenge?

- There are a lot of folks advocating for their interests but nothing has pulled together.

What is the status of the charter?

- It is in a very rough draft. It would help if he can work with a representative of an organization that would help speak to a larger group.

What results have been shown in other states?

- Example: Utah – one of the challenges is that they have five national parks and have seen increase in visitation. But the communities between the parks were not getting the revenue. The OOR was able to use some tax dollars to work with local communities to build other recreation infrastructure.
- Example: Some of those visitors might visit a rural county. The cost of finding those recreation opportunities burden and we look for opportunities.
- Another issue is there are a number of well-known sites that get inundated and figuring out how to get folks to go outside those areas.
- We share the same goal of people enjoying the outdoors.

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

Robert gave a brief update of the committee and its current activities.

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

Trails Coalition: Lauralee stated the board has three members in place but need more. There is a signed agreement with Trail Keepers of Oregon to serve as a fiscal agent. The coalition will form 501 3(c) next year, and Stephanie will stay in a leadership role.

Trails Summit: We have confirmed sessions and workshops. Trail conflict committee proposals were accepted for the Summit.

Lauralee is putting together a field workshop to take place behind the conference site – mountain bikes and equestrians. Setting up a round pen and bringing in bikes and horses to provide a visual of how horses react to bikes and backpacks.



Does the coalition have a website?

- You can find information on the Summit at: www.oregontrailscoalition.org

Agenda Item: SCORP Committee (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe

The draft SCORP report will be available in January and submitted to NPS in March. The value report will be out in September. Parkland mapping includes everything – we do a GIS analysis even if they do not send it in. Then we can go back to the landowner and ask them if it is accurate. We do not have any way of doing inventories of trails though.

Questions:

Many folks have never heard of this – can we get the information out there again?

- David said he would reach out to the Tillamook community.

A trail piece will also be included in the SCORP.

Council members are going to reach out to folks they know to get the information to Terry.

The Parkland Mapping project will not be completed until after the SCORP is submitted to NPS.

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

He is working on the Dinah-Moe-Humm Trail.

Cape Lookout – Review and collect comments and share with the folks on tour, get their comments, and then send it to David to be put together. Staff can do the write up.

In 2019, there is a need for ORTAC to take a closer look at the designation program as it may have to be redone.

Consistency is important and we should look at the language.

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

Alex Phillips has left the agency and her position is open at OPRD. In the meantime, SBC's Proponents' Conference scheduled in Fossil in October has been cancelled.



Agenda Item: OPRD Trails Report (Information)
Presented by: David Stipe

We are trying to get our 17-19 projects done. We have a new trails planner – Rachel Hill and Robin Wilcox is now the Senior Parks and Trails Planner.

Staff is currently working on:

Humbug Mountain Trail – viewshed

Ecola – India Beach reroute

Smith Rock – Rehab Wolf Tree Trail

Cape Foulweather – Otter Crest Loop –widening the shoulder

E-bikes rules were adopted: under 1000 watts allowed on trails 8 feet or wider. If a group or park would like to exclude e-bikes on a specific trail, we are working on a process.

We could bring exclusion review to ORTAC, and have a prescribed policy on what trails are included or excluded.

Question:

Has Metro adopted an e-bike policy?

- Upon further research Metro does not have an e-bike policy, but would be considered motorized vehicles and therefore would be banned from bike trails.

There is a push to institute a legislative change for classes of e-bikes.

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

The group discussed the proposed new bylaws. There were no concerns or comments.

Motion to approve bylaws made by Del Scharffenberg.

Seconded by Rod Sell.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item: Recommendation of new ORTAC Representative (Action)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard



The Council discussed recommending one of five candidates for the ORTAC coastal representative.

Motion by Joe Kresse to make a recommendation to the OPRD Commission for Skyler Archibald to be appointed as the new coastal representative.
Seconded by Rod Sell.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item: October ORTAC Meeting (Action)
Presented by: Lauralee Svendsgaard

Lauralee will not be able to attend Thursday's morning's business meeting in Bend to coincide with the Oregon Trails Summit. The meeting's agenda will include, among other items, the election of new officers and setting the 2019 schedule.

Agenda Item: Miscellaneous discussions/comments (Information)
Presented by: Council members

Robert handed out the recently adopted Regional Trails Map for Metro.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Council Site Visits

Thursday, July 19th, 2018
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

A walking 5 year review of the Cape Lookout Scenic Trail was completed.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 p.m.
