

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 24, 2015

Agenda item: 7b

Action

Topic: Cascade Siskiyou and Wild Rivers Coast State Scenic Bikeways

Presented by: Larry Warren or Chris Havel

Background:

Applications for the two State Scenic Bikeways were submitted by local proponent groups in March 2013, the rating subcommittee of the scenic bikeway committee then rated the routes using criteria developed by the committee to measure scenic values and road conditions. Both were given high scores. After the rating was completed the proponents prepared bikeway plans for the routes. Those plans consist of the records of the local public meetings, notification and minutes, a local outreach plan and sign location tables. Many of the items required the proponents to do outreach to the general community and to road jurisdictions.

Travel Oregon, in their partnership role, held one workshop for each Bikeway to develop familiarity with bicycle tourism industry, and marketing resources, increase understanding of the region's current bicycle destination assets and develop Scenic Bikeway goals that are required in the Bikeway Plan.

The bikeway plans were approved by the Bikeway Committee and the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council.

The Cascade Siskiyou Bikeway plan is posted at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/BIKE/docs/CascadeSiskiyouFinalBikewayPlan.pdf>

Wild Rivers Coast Bikeway Plan is posted at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/BIKE/docs/WildRiverCoastScenicBikewayPlanFINAL.pdf>

The OPRD Bicycle Recreation Specialist held public meetings for both bikeways and the local proponent groups held open houses to notify the community and collect feedback. Almost all comments were strongly in support of the designations. There were two letters of opposition on the Cascade Siskiyou route due to motorist/ cyclist conflict. A summary of the public comments is attached.

Prior Action by Commission: No prior action on this item

Action Requested: Staff requests Commission approval of Cascade Siskiyou and Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeways

Attachments: Two summaries of public meetings in Ashland and Port Orford, two maps of Cascade Siskiyou and Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeways.

Prepared by: Alex Phillips, Bicycle Recreation Specialist



Cascade Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway

April, 2015

- Bikeway
- 25 Mileage from start of route
- Full services
- Day use parking
- Restrooms
- Lodging
- Food
- Campground
- Drinking water
- Steep (arrows point uphill; number of arrows increases with steepness)

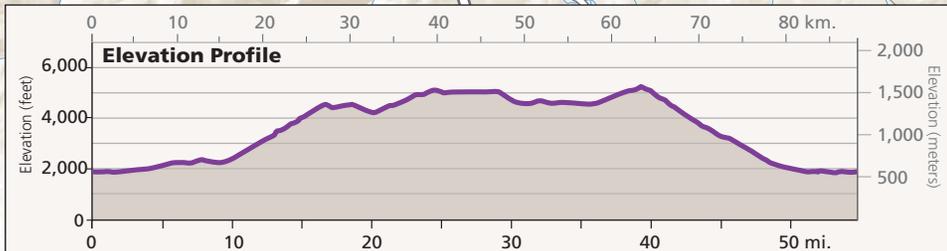


www.RideOregonRide.com/CascadeSiskiyou

State Parks and Rec. Info (800) 551-6949
State Park Reservations (800) 452-5687

Ashland

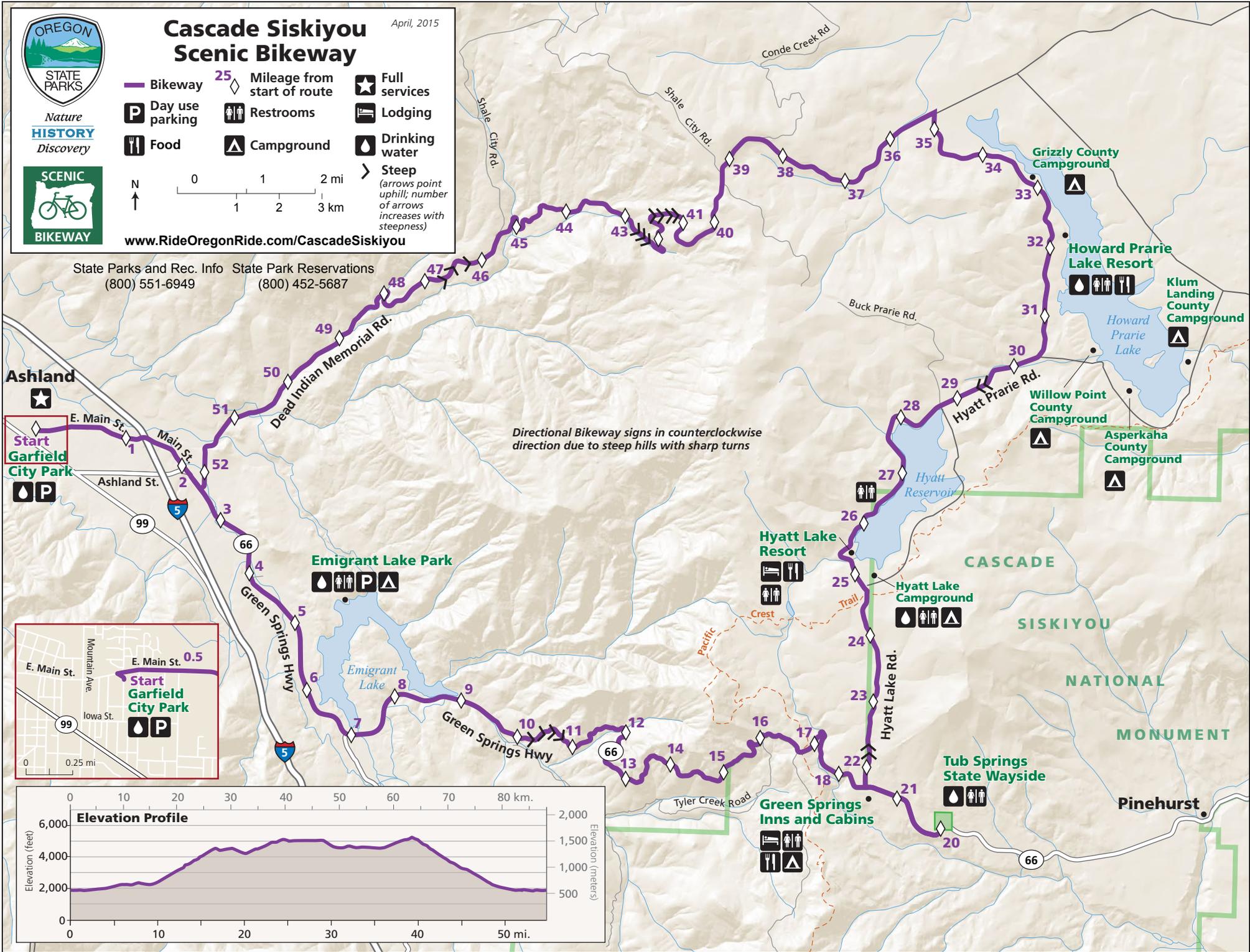
Start
Garfield City Park



Directional Bikeway signs in counterclockwise direction due to steep hills with sharp turns

CASCADE
SISKIYOU
NATIONAL
MONUMENT

Pinehurst



Summary of OPRD Public Meeting for the Proposed Cascade Siskiyou Bikeway

Held April 22nd 2015 at the Ashland City Council Chambers 5:30- 6:30 pm

(Audio recording on file)

Summary: Approximately 15 people attended including one local reporter. Representatives from Jackson County, City of Ashland Parks and Recreation Department, Ashland Chamber of Commerce, representatives of the Ashland Velo Club were in attendance.

There were no comments.

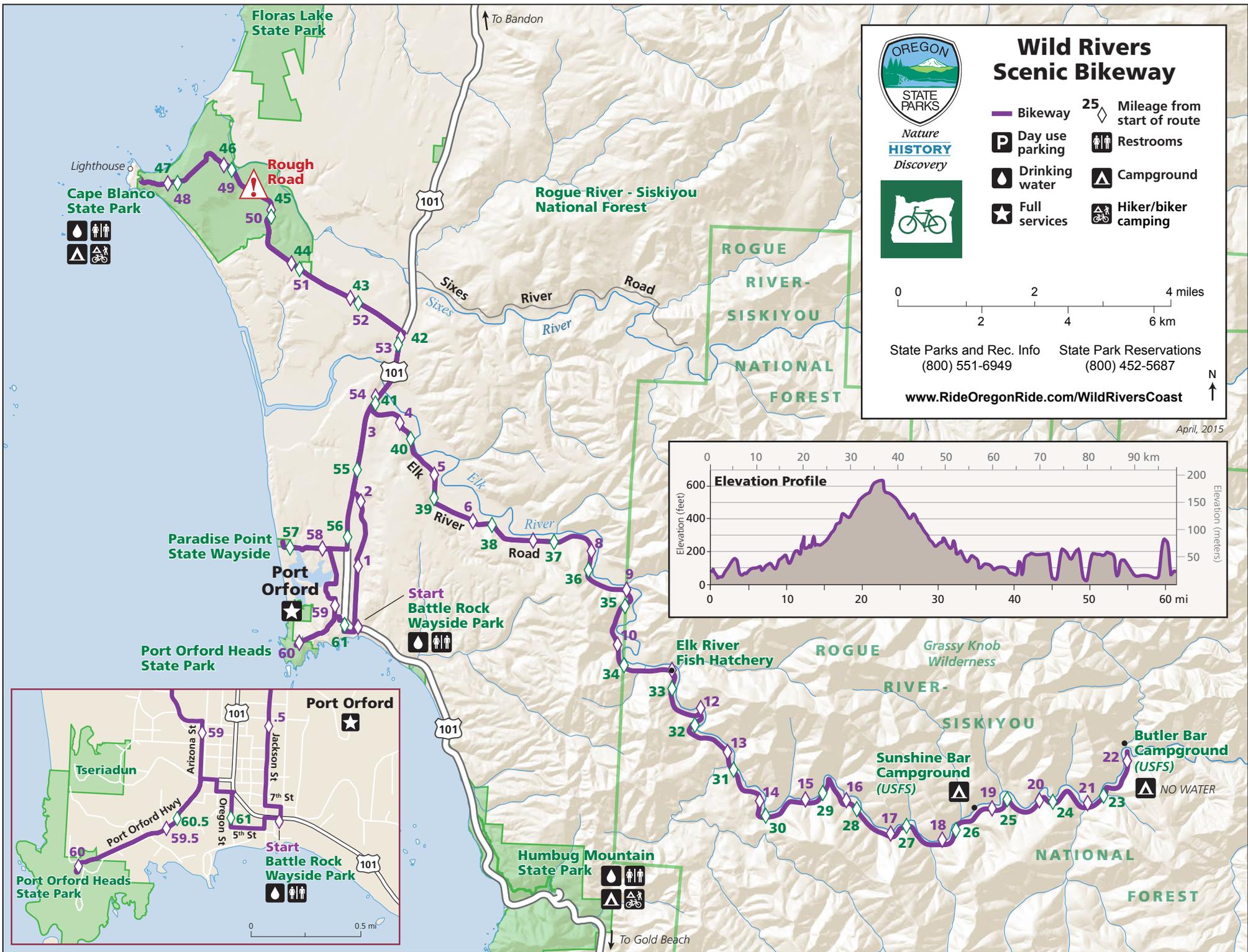
Questions asked were:

- What will change on the ground once the Bikeway is designated?
 - Staff response: the only thing that will change physically is the installation of directional Bikeway signs. The routes will be promoted nationally and internationally. Locals may not see much of that since it is directed at potential tourists.

- What type of signs will be installed?
 - Staff response: Signs are in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Code Devices, Oregon Supplement. They are designed to be simple so they can convey directional information at a glance.

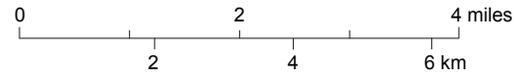
- A reporter asked who pays for the signs and where the money comes from.
 - Staff response: Signs are paid for by OPRD. Road jurisdictions are reimbursed for their work. Funding for the signs is from lottery dollars.

- Several questions were asked about the economic impact of designated Scenic Bikeways.
 - Staff response: Travel Oregon's 2012 study found that bicycle tourism put \$400 million into the Oregon economy in 2012. Travel Oregon is currently working on a study to show the economic impact of just the Bikeways. That study will be released soon.



Wild Rivers Scenic Bikeway

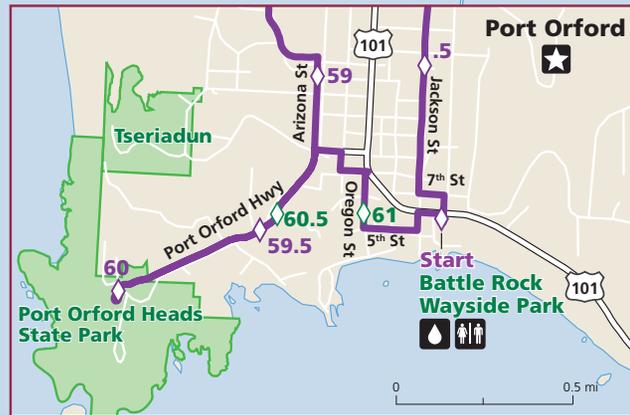
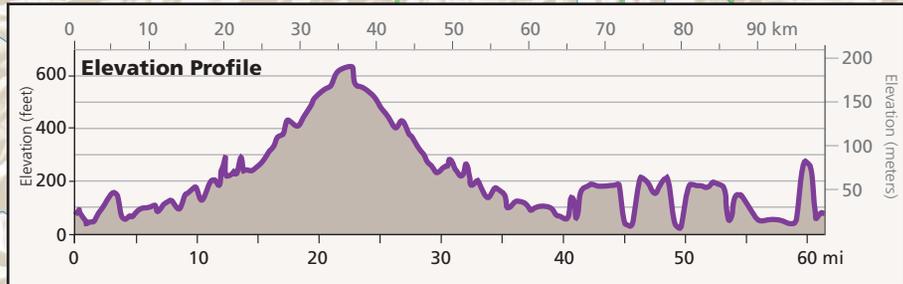
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery



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www.RideOregonRide.com/WildRiversCoast

April, 2015



Summary of OPRD Public Meeting for the Proposed Wild Rivers Coast Bikeway

Held January 27, 2015 from 5:30- 6:45pm at Port Orford Public Library

(Audio recording on file)

Summary: Approximately 30 people attended, including the state park manager, two representatives from the Forest Service and one ODOT representative. The route has sections managed by the Forest Service, ODOT and State Parks and Recreation Department as well as a section managed by the City of Port Orford and Curry County. No city or county representatives were present. During the meeting the Forest Service reiterated their support for the bikeway. All road jurisdictions submitted written letters of support.

No one spoke in opposition of the route. One person, a reporter from a small local paper and resident on Elk River Road, Brice Wagner, did request outreach to residents on the county section of the Elk River Road. All other comment was in support or just to ask questions.

Attendee Comments/Questions

- Brice Wagner (local reporter): Not for or against it, lived on Elk River road for 70 years. Seven miles of County road and about 70 residents live up Elk River. Suggested that OPRD gather input from the people that live on the Elk River Road. He also noted that there is rock quarry with trucks going up and down road.
Staff response: The purpose of this meeting is to get the word out and get input on the Bikeway. There was a media release and several articles about it already. Staff then asked attendees to help spread the word to those that have not heard yet.
- Attendee asked what to do about dogs chasing cyclists on the route.
Staff response: Suggested they contact local law enforcement.
- Attendee thanked Tyson Rasor, the lead local proponent and drafter of the Bikeway Plan for his hard work to designate the bikeway.
Staff response: Of the three bikeways recently given preliminary approval this one is the farthest along on the path to designation.
- Attendee asked about a missing Oregon Coast Bike Route sign.
Staff response: Will take the info and pass it onto ODOT because that is an ODOT designated route. A representative from ODOT attending the meeting took the information.
- Attendee commented that she liked that the proposed route had out and backs that could be done instead of doing one long loop.