

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 24, 2016

---

Agenda Item:	6a	<b>Action</b>
Topic:	Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway Designation	
Presented by:	Alexandra Phillips, Bicycle Recreation Specialist	

---

**BACKGROUND:** The application for the Bikeway was submitted in March, 2011. That summer the rating subcommittee of the State Scenic Bikeway Committee rode and rated the route using criteria developed by the committee to measure scenic values and road conditions. The route was given a very high score.

The local Bikeway proponents did not move forward immediately due to the small population of the county in which to find people able to dedicate time to the program. During this period of quiescence county commissioners and others contacted OPRD to express their ongoing interest and support in the proposed Bikeway.

Recently, a local proponent group was formed and the Bikeway Plan was completed. The plan consists of a sign location table, proponent goals and final letters of support from all managing agencies of the road jurisdictions, which are: The City of Fossil, Wheeler County, three ODOT districts, National Park Service (the route passes by the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument) and the BLM (the route passes by many BLM campgrounds and day use areas).

Link to proponent written Bikeway Plan:

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

The OPRD Bicycle Recreation Specialist held a public meeting in November 2015. Approximately eight people attended, including one Wheeler County Commissioner. All spoke in strong support of the Bikeway designation. A few weeks after the public meeting another Wheeler County Commissioner called to confirm the county's strong support.

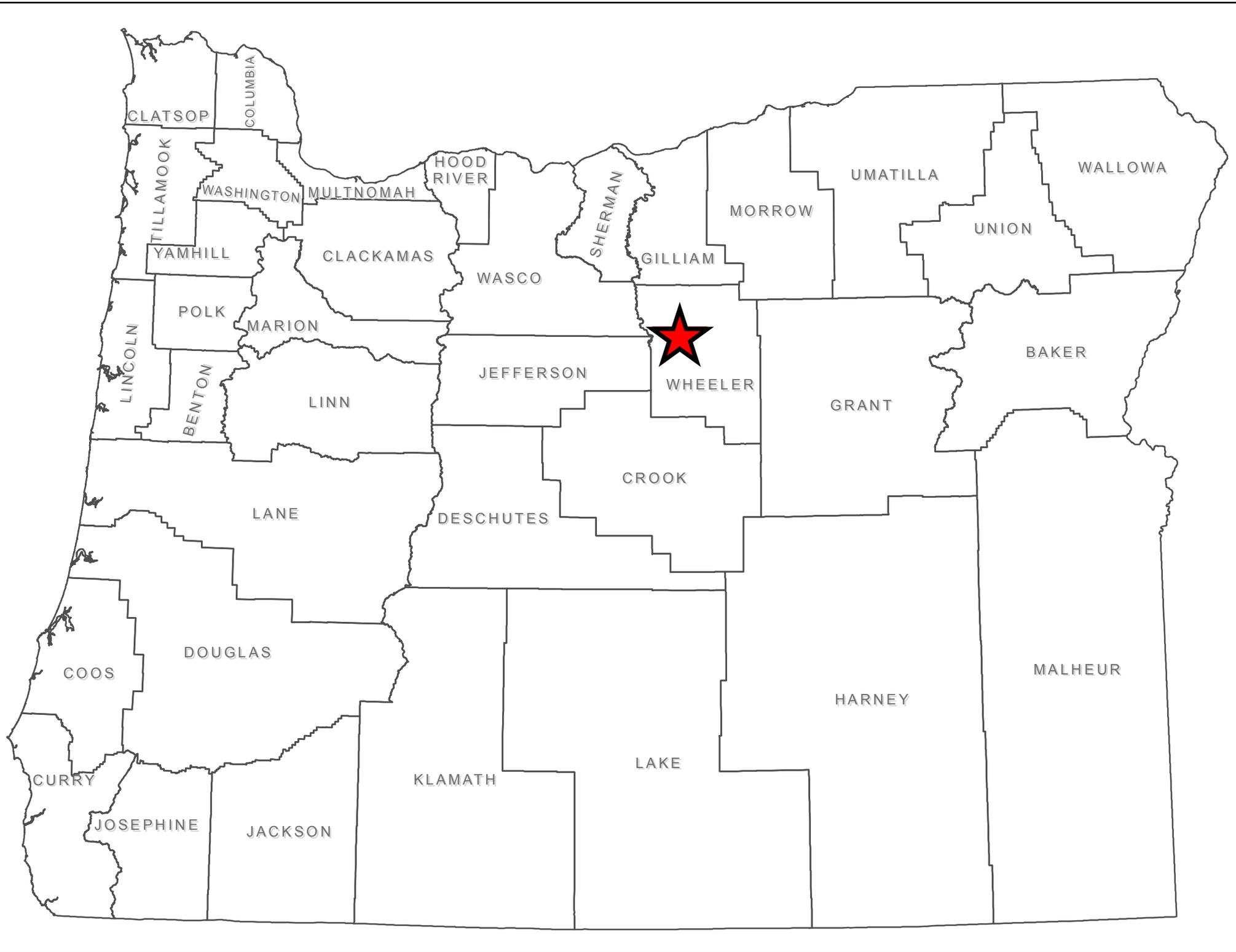
One letter of concern for possible roadside and ecosystem degradation was received. Several comment letters have been received expressing support because of the scenic beauty of the route and the economic benefits the designation would bring to a financially challenged area.

**Prior Action by Commission:** none

**Action Requested:** Staff requests commission approval of the Painted Hills Bikeway

**Attachments:** Map and Bikeway Plan

**Prepared by:** Alexandra Phillips

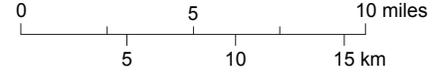




# Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway

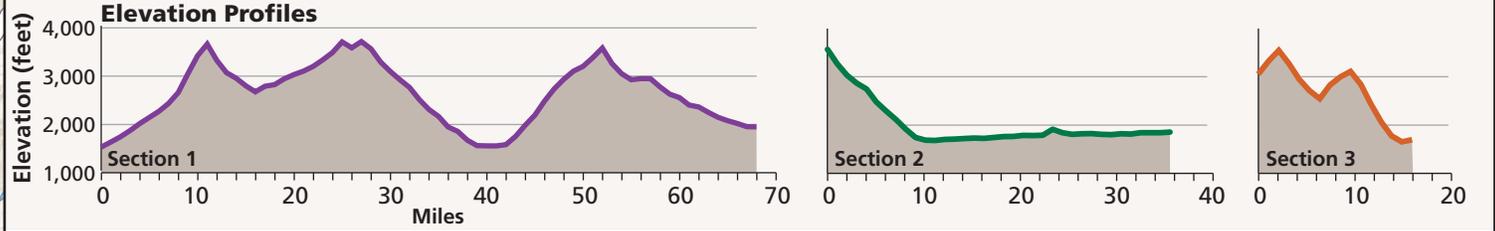
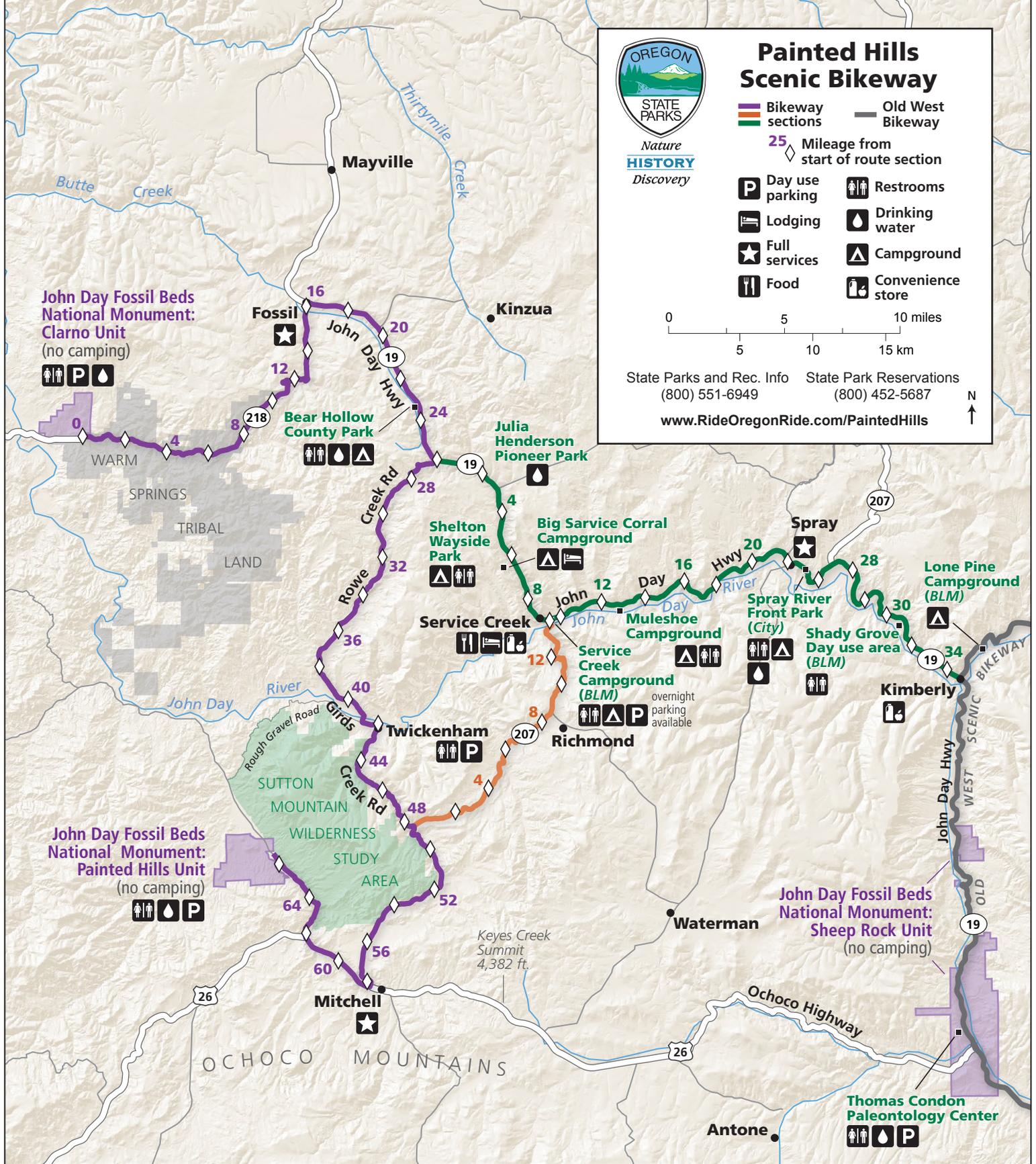
- Bikeway sections
- Old West Bikeway
- 25 Mileage from start of route section
- Day use parking
- Restrooms
- Lodging
- Drinking water
- Full services
- Campground
- Food
- Convenience store

Nature  
**HISTORY**  
Discovery



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

[www.RideOregonRide.com/PaintedHills](http://www.RideOregonRide.com/PaintedHills)



## **Oregon Scenic Bikeway Plan**



## **Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway**

**01-04-2016**

## Bikeway Proponent Group Information

### Lead Proponent

<b>Name:</b> Lynn Morley (interim until new county economic development director is in place)	<b>Phone:</b> (541) 763-2370
<b>Title:</b> County Commissioner	<b>Email:</b> lmorley@co.wheeler.or.us
<b>Organizational Affiliation:</b> Wheeler County	

### Other Proponent Group Members (to create more boxes place cursor in last box and press tab)

Name	Organizational Affiliation/ Title	Email/ Phone
Kara Wilson Anglin	John Day River Territory	kara@wilsonranchesretreat.com 541-420-7011
Anne Mitchell	John Day River Territory	anne@annemitchell.org 541-256-0551
Richard Ross	Oregon Paleo Lands Institute	richardnross@earthlink.net 541-408-9149
Elizabeth Farrar	Eastern Oregon Visitors Association/Social Media Coordinator	elizabeth.a.farrar@gmail.com 541-626-1995
Jalet Farrell	Volunteer	<a href="mailto:jalet.farrell@gmail.com">jalet.farrell@gmail.com</a> 503-269-1727
Patrick Farrell	Volunteer	<a href="mailto:ofarrell.company@gmail.com">ofarrell.company@gmail.com</a> 503-269-1615

### Key Proponent Responsibilities

Proponent Member Name*	Task/Responsibility
Kara Wilson Anglin	<b>Convener.</b> Periodically convene key volunteers and supporting organizations to coordinate promotion and improvement of the bikeway.

Lynn Morley	<b>Signs Coordinator.</b> Monitor bikeway directional signs and report missing or down signs to the appropriate road jurisdiction. Work with the OPRD Bicycle Coordinator as necessary to obtain replacement signs.
Elizabeth Farrar	<b>Social Media Coordinator.</b> Post information and updates about the bikeway to the RideOregonRide website. Advise the State Parks and Recreation Department Bicycle Coordinator of route closures and other significant events affecting use of the bikeway.
Jalet Farrell (for Mitchell area)	<b>Bicycle Friendly Business Recruiter.</b> Coordinate identification of members of the local business community who can provide services to bikeway users and assist them in improving and expanding their services.
Patrick Farrell and Wheeler County	<b>Local Government Liaison.</b> Maintain contact with each affected road jurisdiction to ensure their continued support of the Scenic Bikeway.

*\* Contact information for proponent group members listed here is provided above.*

## **Bikeway Description**

300 words or less

Bicycling through the Painted Hills, you can see millions of years of history revealed in the layers of mountains of earth, one color at a time. The hills get their name from the delicately colored stratifications in the soil of yellows, golds, blacks, and reds with Mars-like pillars formed by waterfalls and volcanic sludge. A closer look reveals ancient plant and wood fossils.

The bikeway connects all parts of multi-colored John Day Fossil Beds, which hold the world’s best fossil record of the Age of Mammals (last 50 million years) and exhibit a dramatic record of past climate change. The bikeway features a hub and spoke design that offers a series of rides and loops, which easily connect to adjacent counties for longer tours on mostly low traffic roads.

Family and Touring Cyclists will enjoy all or part of easy Highway 19 along the John Day River from Spray or Service Creek to Kimberly and on to the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center (43 miles one-way). This connects to the Old West Scenic Bikeway. Family cyclists will enjoy US 26/Bridge Creek Rd. from Mitchell into the dazzling Painted Hills and lofty Sutton Mt., or Hwy 19 south from Fossil to comfy, forested Bear Hollow Park. Adventure Cyclists will want to try the loop from Service Creek on Hwy 207, up twisty Donnelley Grade, to the ghost town of Richmond, then circle back via Girds Cr. Canyon, Twickenham, and Shelton Park. Out and back from Fossil to Clarno Palisades in the National Monument will also appeal to Adventure Cyclists. (33 miles) Water stops are limited to towns, except for three Hwy 19 parks between Fossil and Service Creek, and Painted Hills picnic area.

## Map Information

To be filled out **AFTER** receiving first draft of map from OPRD. The campgrounds, parks, public restrooms, public water stops and other publicly available amenities to be shown on the Scenic Bikeway map are listed below:

Amenity	Mile marker from OPRD map	Management Agency
DONE		

## Goals (infrastructure, Business outreach and services, and Marketing/Communications)

### Infrastructure

The proponents intend to pursue the following activities to enhance the bikeway by improving riding conditions and providing amenities for bicyclists:

Description of Infrastructure Improvement Activity	Proponent Member Contact/Lead	Timeline
Community Bike Racks	Lynn Morley/county econ. Development director	March 2016
<b>Action Items/First Steps to accomplish Goal listed above:</b> Secure funding for the bike racks. Coordinate with City Councils of Fossil, Mitchell, and Spray for installation. Ideal design would be modeled on a hitching post.		

Description of Infrastructure Improvement Activity	Proponent Member Contact/Lead	Timeline
Improvement of Rowe Creek Road	Lynn Morley/county econ. Development director	2016/2017
<b>Action Items/First Steps to accomplish Goal listed above:</b> Wheeler County has applied for a FLAP (Federal Land Access Program) Grant in the spring of 2015 for a new chip seal of Rowe Creek road. The improvement of this road surface is a high priority for Wheeler County. FLAP grant was denied. County will address weak points in grant and re-apply in the next round.		

## Business Outreach and Services

The proponents intend to pursue the following activities to expand and improve the business services available for visiting bicyclists and to attract new visitors:

Description Business Services Activity	Proponent Member Contact/Lead	Timeline
Bicycle Friendly Business Campaign	Jalet Farrell (Mitchell area) Anne Mitchell (Fossil area)	Contacts will meet with three businesses per area by summer 2016
<b>Action Items/First Steps to accomplish Goal listed above:</b> One on one meetings with local businesses and support application to the Bicycle Friendly Business Program. Wheeler County Economic Development has already broached the subject with many service businesses in Wheeler County.		

Description Business Services Activity	Proponent Member Contact/Lead	Timeline
<b>Action Items/First Steps to accomplish Goal listed above:</b>		

## Marketing/Communications

The proponents will pursue the following activities to make bicyclists' experiences great to compliment the broad marketing and communications resources provided by Travel Oregon and the Parks and Recreation Department, and to assist the local Destination Marketing Organization in marketing the Scenic Bikeway, post updates to RideOregonRide.com and to possibly to provide opportunities for bicyclists to participate in group rides of the route, or host a ribbon cutting media event.

<b>Description Marketing/ Communications Activity</b>	<b>Proponent Member Contact/Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
First Ride Ribbon Cutting Event with photo opportunity.	Lynn Morley/ County econ. Development director	Saturday, May 7 <sup>th</sup> 2016 (first full weekend of May)
<b>Action Items/First Steps to accomplish Goal listed above:</b> Promote Oregon's newest scenic bikeway with a first ride event. Invite special guests to come and ride a section of the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway to generate positive media material. Focus invitations on people, businesses, and media known in the bicyclist community.		

<b>Description Marketing/Communications Activity</b>	<b>Proponent Member Contact/Lead</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Social Media Campaign	Elizabeth Farrar	May thru October 2016
<b>Action Items/First Steps to accomplish Goal listed above:</b> Develop social media calendar and promote the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway and community partners. Elizabeth Farrar is the social media contractor for the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, and the John Day River Territory. Information will be posted on the EOVA and JDRT platforms as well as RideOregonRide, Oregonscenicbikeways.org; and other forms of social media such as Facebook and Instagram.		

## **Record of Community Outreach & Public Meetings**

During development of the Bikeway Plan, the proponents provided the following opportunities for members of the community to learn about and provide input into plans for the proposed Scenic Bikeway:

<b>Description of Outreach or Opportunity for Public Input</b>	<b>Date</b>
JDRT meetings with Scenic Bikeway on Agenda	To be Identified
Public meeting at Big Sarvice.	May, 6 2014
Wheeler County Economic Development Working Group Open meetings for citizens of Wheeler County to have input in future projects pursued by the Economic Development Department. Met once per month from May to November of 2014 and culminated in a Two Year Action Plan. Scenic Bikeway application was identified as a high priority.	May, 2014 thru November 2014
OPRD public meeting in Fossil	Nov. 19 2015

<b>Description of Outreach or Opportunity for Public Input</b>	<b>Date</b>
Travel Oregon bikeway workshop in Fossil	Nov. 20 2015

*X Check when copies of news articles, calendar events, minutes from meetings, sign in sheets and other announcements are attached or sent in a separate file.*

## Bikeway Signs Location Tables

### Sign Location Table

(direction A – clockwise or Southbound)

To create more boxes place cursor in box and press tab

All Signs to be placed on right side of road about 30 feet before intersection unless otherwise marked

Road Name And Sign Label on Map	Intersection With	Arrow Direction	Sign Size	Road Jurisdiction (contact info follows)
<b>Section “A” Clarno Unit to Painted Hills Unit via Rowe Creek Rd.</b>				
A) Clarno Unit	OR 218	Left	24” x 36”	District 9
B) OR 218 MP42.98	OR 19 MP 58.15 (In Fossil)	OBM1-8a Right	18” x 24”	District 9
C) Rowe Creek Rd.	S. Twickenham Rd.	OBM1-8 straight arrow	24” x 36”	Wheeler County
D) OR 207	OR 26 (near Mitchell)	OBM1-8 right arrow	24” x 36”	District 10
E) OR 26	Burnt Ranch Rd/Bridge Creek Rd.	OBM1-8 Right arrow	24”x 36”	District 10
<b>Section “B” Rowe Creek Rd. to Kimberly</b>				
F) OR 19	Rowe Creek Rd.	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Rowe Creek Rd. right arrow Spray Straight arrow	24” x 36”	District 12
G) OR 19	OR 207 (Service Creek)	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Spray Straight arrow Mitchell Right	24”x 36”	District 12

<b>Road Name And Sign Label on Map</b>	<b>Intersection With</b>	<b>Arrow Direction</b>	<b>Sign Size</b>	<b>Road Jurisdiction (contact info follows)</b>
H) OR 207 (Spray)	Kahler Basin Rd.	OBM1- 8a straight arrow	18" x 24"	District 12
I) OR 19	OR 207	OBM1-8 straight arrow	24' x 36"	District 12
J) OR 19	Kimberly	OBM1-8 No arrow OBD1-3c Old West Bikeway no arrow Dayville straight arrow Monument left arrow	24" x 36"	District 12
<b>Section "C" Service Creek - 207/Grids Creek Rd.</b>				
K) OR 207	Grids Creek Rd.	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Rowe Creek Right arrow Mitchell left arrow	24" x 36"	District 10

**Sign Location Table  
(direction B – counterclockwise or Northbound)**

For Bikeways signed in both directions

<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Intersection With</b>	<b>Arrow Direction</b>	<b>Sign Size</b>	<b>Road Jurisdiction (contact info follows)</b>
<b>Section "A" Painted Hills Unit to Clarno Unit via Rowe Creek Rd.</b>				
L) Painted Hills Unit	Burnt Ranch Rd.	OBM1- 8a right arrow	18' x 24"	Wheeler County
M) Burnt Ranch Rd.	OR 26	OBM1-8 left arrow	24" x 36"	District 10

<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Intersection With</b>	<b>Arrow Direction</b>	<b>Sign Size</b>	<b>Road Jurisdiction (contact info follows)</b>
N) OR 26 (outside of Mitchell)	OR 207	OBM1-8 left arrow	24" x 36"	District 10
O) OR 207	Grids Creek Rd.	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Rowe Creek Rd. left arrow Service Creek straight arrow	24" x 36"	District 10
P) Grids Creek Rd.	S. Twickenham Rd.	OBM1-8 Straight arrow	24" x 36"	Wheeler County
Q) Rowe Creek Rd.	OR 19	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Fossil left arrow Service Creek right arrow	24" x 36"	County
R) OR 19 (Fossil)	OR 218	OBM1-8a Left arrow	18" x24"	District 9
S) OR 218	Clarno Unit	OBM1-8 right arrow	24" x 36"	District 9
<b>Section "B" Kimberly to Rowe Creek Rd.</b>				
T) OR 19	Approximately one mile west of Kimberly	OBM1-8 straight arrow OBD1-1C Painted Hills Bikeway straight arrow	24" x 36"	District 12
U) OR 19	OR 207	OBM1-8 straight arrow	24" x 36"	District 12
V) OR 19 (Spray)	Kahler Basin Rd.	OBM1-8a straight arrow	18"x24"	District 12

<b>Road Name</b>	<b>Intersection With</b>	<b>Arrow Direction</b>	<b>Sign Size</b>	<b>Road Jurisdiction (contact info follows)</b>
W) OR 19 (Service Creek)	OR 207	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Fossil straight arrow Mitchell left arrow	24" x 36"	District 12
X) OR 19	Rowe Creek Rd.	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Fossil straight arrow Rowe Creek Rd. left arrow	24" x 36"	District 12
<b>Section "C" Grids Creek Rd./Service Creek -207</b>				
Y) OR 207	OR 19- junction to Spray/Service Creek	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2C Fossil left arrow Spray right arrow	24" x 36"	District 10
<b>Old West Signs</b>				
Z) Hwy 402	Hwy 19 (Kimberly)	OBM1-8 no arrow OBD1-2c Old West left arrow Painted Hills Right arrow	24" x 36"	District 12
Aa) Hwy 19	Just before Kimberly	OBM1- 8 no arrow OBD1- 2c Old West right arrow Painted Hills straight arrow	24"x 36"	District 12

*X Check when responsible road jurisdictions have reviewed and approved the above Bikeway sign locations.*

### Sign Contact Information

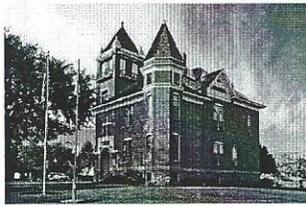
Contact Name	Road Jurisdiction	Phone Number
Pat Cimmiyotti	District 9	541-296-2452
Pat Creedican	District 10	541-388-6152
Jeff Biggerstaff	District 12	541-276-6738
Rob Ordway/Lynn Morley	Wheeler County	541-763-2023

### Final Bikeway Letters of Support

Final letters of support for each of the following agencies and road jurisdictions were obtained within 6 months prior to submittal of the plan (to create more boxes put cursor in box and press tab)

Agency/Jurisdiction Name	Date of Letter
ODOT region(s): District 9, District 10, District 12	District 9: July 24, 2015 District 10: July 21, 2015 District 12: July 20, 2015
County Commission: Wheeler County	June, 17 2015
Cities(s) council: Fossil, Mitchell, Spray	Fossil: June 17, 2015 Mitchell: June 19, 2015 Spray: June 17, 2015
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument	August 3, 2015
BLM	Dec. 2015

*X Check when final letters of support from each of the agencies and road jurisdictions are attached.*



## Wheeler County

County Court

PO Box 447 \* Fossil \* Oregon \* 97830-0447

Wheeler County Courthouse \* 701 Adams Street

Ph (541) 763-2912 \* Fax (541) 763-4210

August 19, 2015

Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Phillips,

Please accept this letter as enthusiastic endorsement of the Wheeler County Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway Application.

The Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway will connect the outstanding geological splendor of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument with the rest of the communities of Wheeler County. We believe that this bikeway will also present riders with the natural beauty inherent in Wheeler County from the John Day River to the high desert.

Another key feature of this bikeway is the connection to the Old West Scenic Bikeway that continues through Grant County. This whole bikeway system will be a great benefit to the Northern Central region of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Chris Perry  
Wheeler County Judge

Rob Ordway  
Wheeler County Commissioner

Lynn Morley  
Wheeler County Commissioner



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

District 10

63055 N Hwy 97, Bldg K

Bend, OR 97701

Phone: (541) 388-6169

Fax: (541) 388-6022

July 21, 2015

Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Proposed Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway

Alexandra,

Wheeler County has requested a letter of support for the proposed Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway. The Oregon Department of Transportation endorses this bikeway as both an economic benefit to the area and as alternative mode of transportation.

The Oregon Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over State Highways US 26, OR 19, OR 207, and OR 218. These highways traverse some of the most scenic areas of the state and lend themselves well to cycling. Portions of these Highways are part of a route that is being proposed for the incorporation into the Oregon Scenic Bikeways System. Proponents of this proposal include Wheeler County, the incorporated towns of Fossil, Mitchell, and Spray, as well as local businesses and citizens.

Portions of the proposed route raise some safety concerns due to narrow pavement width and limited sight distance due to the horizontal alignments; however, the majority of the route is suitable for bicycle travel. It should be noted that these highways are typically maintained by chip seals, due to the effectiveness and efficiency of chip seals as a maintenance strategy.

Should this route be chosen, ODOT will continue to offer support and/or input to the local proponents in the development of the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway Management Plan.

If you have any questions for ODOT, feel free to contact me at 541-388-6169.

Sincerely,

Pat Creedican  
ODOT District 10 Manager

Cc: Bob Bryant  
Joel McCarroll  
Gary Farnsworth



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

District 9 Office

3313 Bret Clodfelter Way

The Dalles, OR 97058

Phone: (541)296-2215

Fax: (541) 296-1671

FILE CODE:

July 24, 2015

Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Alexandra Phillips,

The Oregon Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over State Highways US 26, OR 19, OR 207, and OR 218. These highways traverse some of the most scenic areas of the state and lend themselves well to cycling. Portions of these Highways are part of a route that is being proposed for the incorporation into the Oregon Scenic Bikeways System. Proponents of this proposal include Wheeler County, the incorporated towns of Fossil, Mitchell, and Spray, as well as local businesses and citizens.

ODOT would like to express our Support of the proposed Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway. Portions of the proposed route raise some safety concerns due to narrow pavement width and limited sight distance due to the horizontal alignments; however, the majority of the route is very suitable for bicycle travel. It should be noted that these highways are typically maintained by chip seals, due to the effectiveness and efficiency of chip seals as a maintenance strategy.

Should this route be chosen we will continue to offer support and/or input to the local proponents in the development of the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway Management Plan.

Should you have any questions for ODOT, please contact me at 541-296-2215.

Sincerely,



Pat Cimmiyotti  
ODOT District 9 Manager  
The Dalles

cc: File



Oregon  
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Transportation  
Highway Department  
District 12 Office  
1327 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
Telephone (541) 276-1241  
FAX (541) 276-5767

July 20, 2015

Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Alexandra Phillips,

The Oregon Department of Transportation has jurisdiction over State Highways US 26, OR 19, OR 207, and OR 218. These highways traverse some of the most scenic areas of the state and lend themselves well to cycling. Portions of these highways are part of a route that is being proposed for incorporation into the Oregon Scenic Bikeways System. Proponents of this proposal include Wheeler County, the incorporated towns of Fossil, Mitchell, and Spray, as well as local businesses and citizens.

ODOT would like to express our support of the proposed Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway. Portions of the proposed route raise some safety concerns due to narrow pavement width and limited sight distance due to the horizontal alignments; however, the majority of the route is very suitable for bicycle travel. It should be noted that these highways are typically maintained by chip seals, due to the effectiveness and efficiency of chip seals as a maintenance strategy.

Should this route be chosen, we will continue to offer support and/or input to the local proponents in the development of the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway Management Plan.

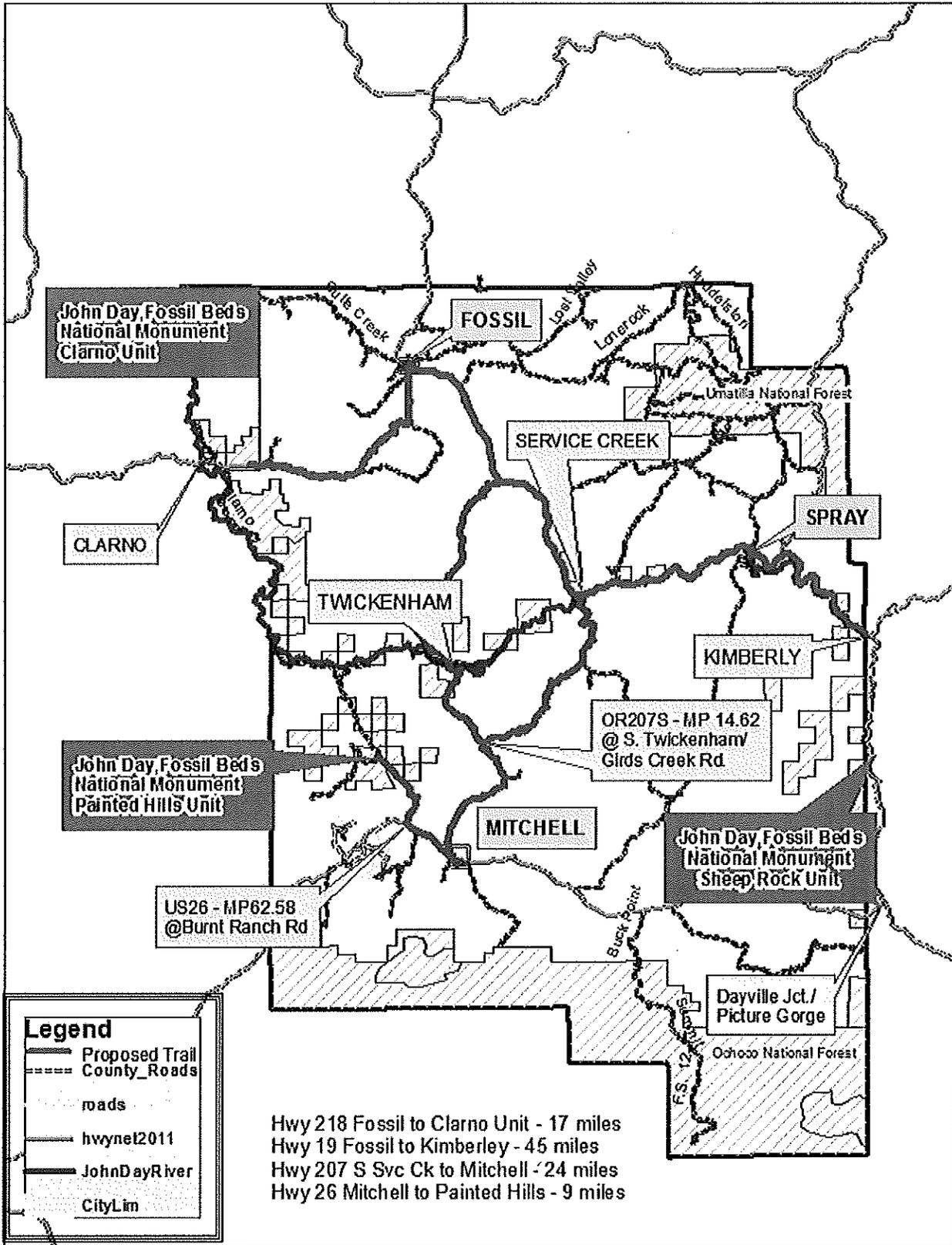
Should you have any questions for ODOT, please contact me at 541-278-6021.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Holt  
ODOT District 12 Manager  
Pendleton

Cc: file

# PROPOSED SCENIC BIKEWAY





# United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
John Day Fossil Beds National Monument  
32651 Hwy 19  
Kimberly, Oregon 97848

L34 (JODA)

August 3, 2015

Ms. Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ms. Phillips,

John Day Fossil Beds National Monument supports Wheeler County's proposal for the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway. The proposed bikeway would link units of the monument with the surrounding communities and promote public understanding of the paleontological resources of the John Day Basin. We look forward to continuing work with Wheeler County to inform protection and interpretation of these globally significant fossil resources while providing important recreational opportunities.

If you have questions, I can be reached at (541) 987-2333 extension 1212 or at [shelley\\_hall@nps.gov](mailto:shelley_hall@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

Shelley Hall  
Superintendent





# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Prineville District Office  
3050 N.E. 3rd Street  
Prineville, Oregon 97754

IN REPLY REFER TO:

8357 (ORP060)

**DEC 09 2015**

Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301

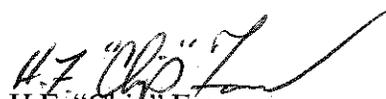
Dear Ms. Phillips:

The BLM Prineville District is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Wheeler County Painted Hills State Scenic Bikeway project.

The Painted Hills State Scenic Bikeway connects the outstanding natural areas of the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument with the communities of Wheeler County, and passes through or alongside public lands managed by the Prineville District BLM. The Bikeway links the various communities in Wheeler County with these natural areas, and will encourage tourism and recreation, which benefits the local economy.

We look forward to working with Wheeler County and State Parks to support this project and create long-term connections between the communities and their public lands. If you have questions, I can be reached at (541) 416-6731 or at [hfaver@blm.gov](mailto:hfaver@blm.gov).

Sincerely,



H.F. "Chip" Faver

Field Manager, Central Oregon Resource Area

Alex Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Coordinator  
Oregon Department of Parks & Recreation  
C/o Wheeler County Economic Development  
725 Summer Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Paleo Lands Scenic Bikeway in Wheeler County

Dear Sir:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of support for the proposed Paleo Lands Scenic Bikeway through Wheeler County. Such a facility would be a great asset to our county and to our cities throughout the county.

It is my understanding that the proposed bikeway would range throughout Wheeler County, highlighting the significant communities and points of interest in our area. It would be such a tremendous boon to our local communities, our residents and to our economy. As residents of Wheeler County, we are justifiably proud of the John Day Fossil beds National Monument sites within or near our county. The proposed bikeway would make these and other local points of interest, available to countless visitors traveling in our area.

I am sure that local residents would greatly appreciate the opportunities offered to them by the implementation of such a trail. I strongly support its implementation.

Sincerely,

Carol MacInnes  
Mayor  
City of Fossil

**From:** [HOLT Marilyn M](#)  
**To:** [CREEDICAN Patrick F](#); [PHILLIPS Alex \\* OPRD](#); ["Trevor Humphreys"](#); [CIMMIYOTTI Patrick N](#); [JACOBSON Talia](#); [MORAN Patrick M](#); [LYONS Sheila A](#)  
**Cc:** ["Lynn Morley"](#); [PHILLIPS Alex \\* OPRD](#); [KING Shawn E](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Letter of Support for Scenic Bikeway Application  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2015 5:07:01 PM

---

I would echo what Pat says. There are some narrower areas, limited paved shoulders in curves, etc. There is low adt which helps. I support the route, just encouraging awareness.  
Sent with Good ([www.good.com](http://www.good.com))

-----Original Message-----

**From:** CREEDICAN Patrick F  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 05:02 PM Pacific Standard Time  
**To:** 'PHILLIPS Alex \* OPRD'; HOLT Marilyn M; 'Trevor Humphreys'; CIMMIYOTTI Patrick N; JACOBSON Talia; MORAN Patrick M; LYONS Sheila A  
**Cc:** Lynn Morley; PHILLIPS Alex \* OPRD; KING Shawn E  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Letter of Support for Scenic Bikeway Application

The first 8 miles of Service Creek Hwy., which is from the John Day river going south toward Mitchell, does not have paved shoulders and is a steep hill. However, it has less than 200 ADT.

Pat

---

**From:** PHILLIPS Alex \* OPRD [<mailto:Alex.Phillips@oregon.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 2:59 PM  
**To:** HOLT Marilyn M; 'Trevor Humphreys'; CREEDICAN Patrick F; CIMMIYOTTI Patrick N; JACOBSON Talia; MORAN Patrick M; LYONS Sheila A  
**Cc:** Lynn Morley; PHILLIPS Alex \* OPRD; KING Shawn E  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Letter of Support for Scenic Bikeway Application

Marilyn: Thank you for writing the letter of support. I do have questions on the middle paragraph that states "portions of the proposed routes raise some safety concerns"

- I am not sure if the letter is in full support of OPRD moving ahead with the Bikeway designation. Typically, we have not moved forward unless the road jurisdiction is in full support. No road is perfect, so is this a case of recognizing that and then stating full support?
- I would like to know which portions of the road raise these concerns.

Thanks so much for your attention to this,

Alexandra Phillips  
Bicycle Recreation Specialist  
Oregon Parks & Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 986-0631  
Cell: (503) 480-9092

Bikeways webpage: [www.oregonscenicbikeways.org](http://www.oregonscenicbikeways.org)

Twitter: ORscenicbikeway

---

**From:** HOLT Marilyn M [<mailto:Marilyn.M.HOLT@odot.state.or.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2015 9:56 AM  
**To:** 'Trevor Humphreys'; CREEDICAN Patrick F; CIMMIYOTTI Patrick N  
**Cc:** Lynn Morley; PHILLIPS Alex \* OPRD; KING Shawn E  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Letter of Support for Scenic Bikeway Application

Here you go. Do you need the signed original Trevor?

*Thanks,*

Marilyn Holt  
District 12 Manager  
1327 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Pendleton, OR 97801  
541-276-1241

*"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things,  
you develop the habit in little matters.  
Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude."  
~Colin Powell*

Confidentiality Note: This electronic mail transmission contains information belonging to the Department of Administrative Services, Risk Management Division. This information may be confidential and/or legally privileged and is intended only for the use of the addressee designated above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this electronic information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this electronic mail in error, please notify us immediately.

---

**From:** Trevor Humphreys [<mailto:thumphreys@co.wheeler.or.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:06 AM  
**To:** HOLT Marilyn M; CREEDICAN Patrick F; CIMMIYOTTI Patrick N  
**Cc:** Lynn Morley  
**Subject:** Request for Letter of Support for Scenic Bikeway Application

Dear ODOT District Managers,

Wheeler County has been working towards the application for an Oregon Scenic Bikeway route. You may recall signing these letters of support back in 2011; since that time the project was stalled for reasons unknown at seemingly the final stages. I was hired to the position of Economic Development Director of Wheeler County in the spring of 2014 and have been working to complete the goals identified by our local communities. One of these goals is the Scenic bikeway application; renamed the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway.

I have been in contact with the old local proponent group and Alex Phillips, the Bicycle Recreation Coordinator the application will be submitted to. I have completed a draft of a brand new application to the program and have gathered letters of support from the Wheeler County Court, and the cities of Fossil, Mitchell, and Spray.

I am writing you now to sincerely request an updated letter of support from your respective offices.

Attached are several documents: A scan of the letters of support signed by each of you back in 2011, a Word Document template for an updated letter of support that is ready to go once personalized with your names, phone numbers, and location, and an updated map of the proposed route for the Painted Hills Scenic Bikeway.

If you have any questions or concerns about this Scenic Bikeway application please contact me. I believe that this is a great opportunity for the local area, and will provide benefits for our Highway system by increased attractiveness for future project funding.

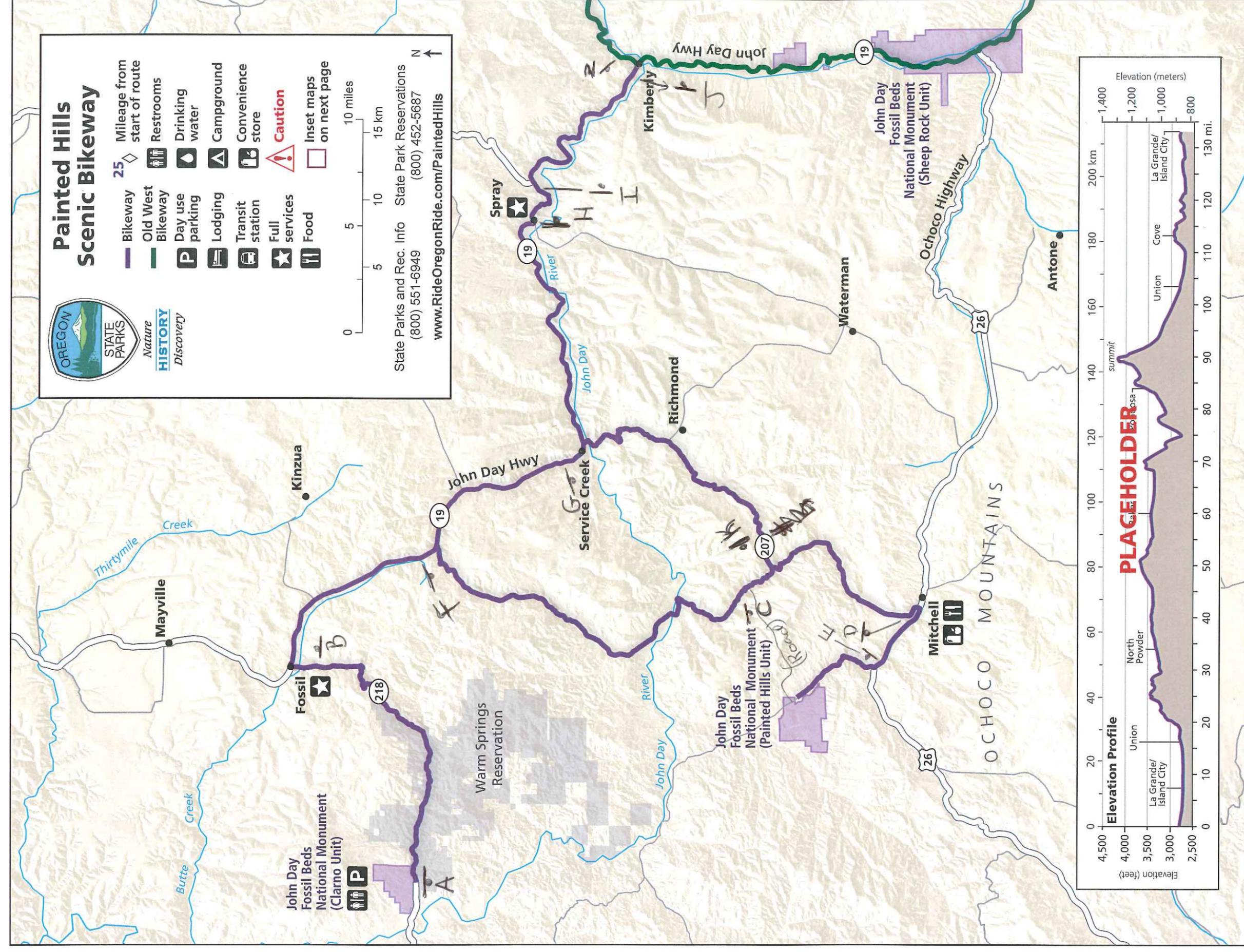
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerest regards,

Trevor Humphreys  
Economic Development Director  
Wheeler County, Oregon  
541-763-2191  
[thumphreys@co.wheeler.or.us](mailto:thumphreys@co.wheeler.or.us)

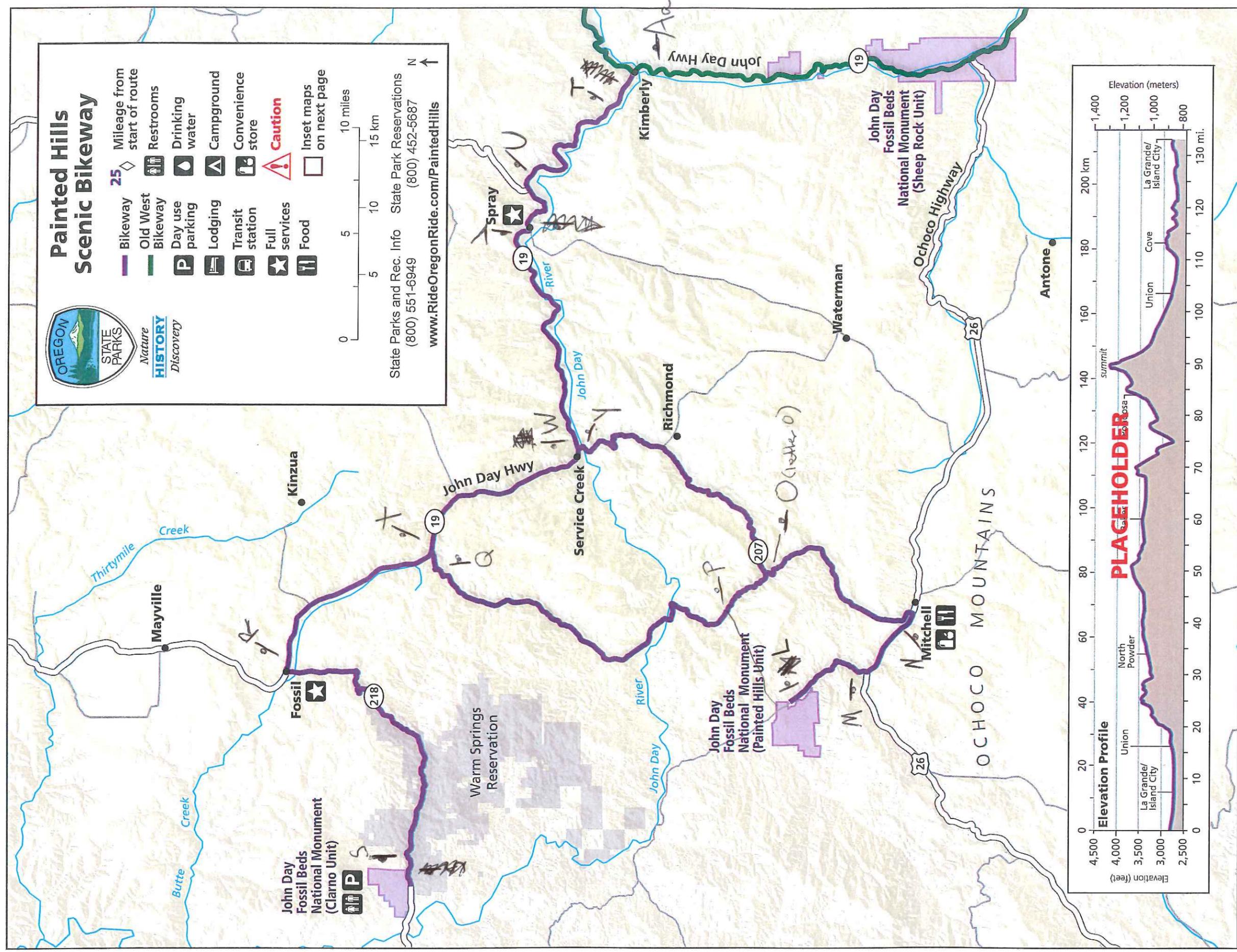
New Dec 7<sup>th</sup>

South Bound



New PE 411  
Dec 7th

Northbound



# Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

February 24, 2016

---

Agenda Item: 6b

**Action**

Topic: South Shore Phillips Lake Trail - Scenic Trail Designation

Presented by: Rocky Houston, State Trails Coordinator

---

## **Background:**

The OPRD Trails Program began in 1971 to facilitate the development of a statewide recreational trail system. In addition to developing a connected system, the desire was to recognize, via designation, the best trails in Oregon. After the 2009 update of the Administrative Rule, the Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council (ORTAC) and OPRD staff opened up the nomination process in 2010. Out of six proposals from that year, the OC&E Woods Line State Trail (OC&E) is the first to be moved forward for designation consideration.

## **What is an Oregon Scenic Trail?**

An Oregon Scenic Trail is a non-motorized trail that provides access to outstanding scenery and lasting memories for users. Those routes chosen for Oregon Scenic Trail designation provide access to national, state or regional scenic resources of superlative quality and splendor and articulate the essence of what is “Oregon”. They may be a single trail or combination of trails, over one mile in length, and must be open to the public and substantially complete. Scenic Trails lie on public lands or public rights-of-way or easements.



## **What is an Oregon Regional Trail?**

Oregon Regional Trails are non-motorized trails that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities while connecting communities, recreation sites, schools and other destinations and/or to other significant trails. Regional trails are over five miles in length, open to the public, substantially complete, and lie on public lands or public rights-of-way or easements.



ORTAC completed a trail assessment (see attachment for assessment criteria) in July 2014 and recommended the 6.6 mile South Shore Phillips Lake Trail be forwarded on as a potential State Designated Scenic Trail. The proponent completed a trail management plan that was reviewed and approved by ORTAC. OPRD held a public open house on October 26, 2015 in Baker City and had a 30 day public comment period. OPRD received 10 public comments, all in support of the designation. ORTAC reviewed the public input and recommended that the trail be forwarded to the OPRD Commission for designation. The management plan and public comments are attached.

**Prior Action by Commission:** None

**Action Requested:** Approval to adopt the South Shore Phillips Lake Trail as a State Designated Scenic Trail.

**Attachments:** Trail Management Plan, public comments, and trail assessment criteria.

**Prepared by:** Rocky Houston

## **Appendix B: Trails Rating Process and Criteria**

Trails proposed for Scenic or Regional designations are scored against a set of standards and criteria, not by comparison to one another. ORTAC evaluates Oregon Recreation Trail proposals through a process that includes the following:

- A preliminary review by OPRD staff of Proponent's application for completeness;
- Proponent application presented for ORTAC review, discussion and recommendation;
- A field visit and assessment conducted by an ORTAC subcommittee or designee;
- ORTAC review and discussion of the Proponent's application and the field assessment; and
- ORTAC direction to proceed with development of a Trail Management Plan or referral of application back to Proponent with comments.

### **Scenic Trails Criteria**

All trails considered for Scenic Trail designation will provide access to outstanding scenic features that showcase quintessential Oregon natural or built landscapes. Three groups of characteristics are taken into account in the rating criteria: Trail Design, Trail Condition, and Trail Setting (includes scenic qualities). Characteristics are assessed on a five-point scale, with a score of five for the most desirable experience, and a score of one for the least.

#### **1. Trail Design:**

*Trail Design is the summation of all design elements that result in the constructed trail and its interaction with the environment.*

- Scenic trails are one mile or more in length and provide access to significant scenic features.
- The trailhead is readily accessible and has adequate parking.
- Signage – focus on comprehensive trail sign plan.
  - a. Trailhead is well signed.
  - b. Trail has adequate wayfinding and reassurance markings.
  - c. Accessibility information: Cross-slope, grade, barriers, etc.
- Route optimizes scenic viewing opportunities.

- Sustainable design: Location and design minimize future maintenance issues, reduce erosion and fit within the landscape.
  - a. Slope: Follows contours; trail slope and grade are compatible with soil type.
  - b. Tread: Surface and width match user type and volume.
  - c. Drainage: Is appropriately out-sloped; Makes use of grade reversals, sheet flow concepts or knicks to deal with water.
- Meets appropriate accessibility standards.
- Minimizes potential user conflicts.

## 2. Trail Condition:

- Tread: Should be in good condition, free from debris, slough, wet muddy areas and tread failure.
- Drainage: Adequate grade reversals or other water management techniques to move water off trail quickly; well-maintained drainage structures functioning appropriately; and no evidence of water sheeting across trail
- Structures: Bridges, turnpikes, retaining walls, boardwalks, structurally sound and properly maintained.
- Vegetation management: Trail free of windfall and other debris; clearances (height, width) consistent with the trail design and sufficient for users.
- Signage: Trailhead sign in place, wayfinding signs at intersections and key locations in place, and signs in logical locations and easily seen by users.
- Trailhead: Trailhead parking, signage, and access well maintained.

## 3. Trail Setting:

*Trail setting is the underlying attraction of the trail and takes in all the visual, auditory, tactile and olfactory elements of the trail experience.*

- Quintessential Oregon landscapes: Have achieved international, national or regional significance; are easily identified as being “Oregon” when viewed.
- Landforms/Features: Route offers multiple opportunities for viewing natural qualities with a high degree of variation, strong contrast, unique shapes, dramatic settings, and unusual combinations of interesting landforms, color, vegetation, wildlife, bodies of water, etc.

- Historic or unique built features, skylines: Route offers multiple opportunities to view, visit, and/or experience a variety of points of interest such as buildings, structures, objects, sites, whole districts or expansive agricultural landscapes.
- Native vegetation: Opportunities for viewing unique vegetative stands.
- Water features: Route offers multiple opportunities for viewing bodies of water, waterfalls, rapids or other scenic water features.
- Unique lighting and/or color: e.g. sunrise, sunset, landscape, rock formations, and views.
- Level of viewscape interruption or disturbance (negative points): Route offers an engaging variety of sensory experiences including a mix of pleasant sounds, odors and tactile opportunities.

### **Regional Trails Criteria**

Trails considered for Regional Trail designation will provide connectivity and close-to-home recreational opportunities. Three groups of characteristics are taken into account in the rating criteria: Trail Design, Trail Condition, and Trail Setting. Characteristics are assessed on a five-point scale, with a score of five for the most desirable experience, and a score of one for the least.

#### **1. Trail Design:**

*Trail Design is the summation of all design elements that result in the constructed trail and its interaction with the environment.*

- Regional trails are five miles or more in length and provide convenient connections to residential and commercial neighborhoods, parks, scenic areas, other trail networks, and other significant destinations.
- Multiple points of access are provided.
- Trailheads are readily accessible and have adequate parking.
- Evidence of a comprehensive sign plan.
- Route provides scenic views where opportunities arise.
- Sustainable design: Location and design minimize future maintenance issues, reduce erosion and fit within the landscape.
  - a. Slope: Follows contours; trail slope and grade are compatible with soil type.
  - b. Tread: Surface and width match user type and volume.

c. Drainage: Is appropriately out-sloped; Makes use of grade reversals, sheet flow concepts or knicks to deal with water.

- Meets appropriate accessibility standards.
- Minimizes potential user conflicts.

## 2. **Trail Conditions:**

Surface: tread should be in good condition, free from debris, slough, wet muddy areas and tread failure.

Outlaw Trails: minimal evidence of user-created social (outlaw) trails.

Drainage: adequately functioning drainage structures; little evidence of water damage and/or erosion.

Structures: bridges, turnpikes, retaining walls, boardwalks are sound and properly maintained.

Vegetation management: trail free of windfall and other debris, clearances (height, width) consistent with trail design and minimum standards.

Signage: Sign plan implemented; trailhead, access and wayfinding signs appropriately located and adequately maintained.

## 3. **Trail Setting:**

*Trail setting is the underlying attraction of the trail and takes in all the visual, auditory, tactile and olfactory elements of the trail experience.*

Is a major component of the local trail system.

Provides close-to-home recreation opportunities for significant numbers of users.

Provides connections to other trail systems, nearby communities, and significant destinations.

Proximity to significant population centers.

Takes advantage of historic or unique built features.

OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

---

Trails Section



# **South Shore Phillips Lake Trail**

## Trail Management Plan

OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

# South Shore Phillips Lake Trail Trail Management Plan

---

© Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-986-0707

---

# Table of Contents

---

**Part 1 – Trail Map and Description of Route**

**Part 2 – Public Notification and Stakeholder Involvement**

**Part 3 – Trail Facility Review**

**Part 4 – Management, Maintenance and Monitoring**

**Part 5 – Future Opportunities**

**Appendix**

Appendix A – Trail location and Support Facilities Map

Appendix B – Letters of Support

---

## Part 1 – Trail Map and Description of Route

---

The South Shore Phillips Lake Trail is a lakeside trail meandering along the south shoreline of Phillips Lake. The 6.6 mile non-motorized trail is located approximately 17 miles southwest of Baker City and 10 miles from Sumpter in Baker County, Oregon.

The trail (#1610) is entirely located on public lands managed by the Whitman Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF), USDA Forest Service. It was developed after the construction of the lake (reservoir) in the early 1970s. Although the area around the lake is closed to motor-vehicles off of designated routes to protect the bald eagle nesting habitat, this and other trails in the area are open to non-motorized recreational users. Popular spring through fall uses include hikers, mountain bicyclists, runners, and equestrians, and as dual-purpose trail in the winter months for cross country ski and snowshoe recreationists. The trail is accessible on public and forest roads year-round



The lake side trail winds along the waters-edge at the 4100 foot elevation with only slight elevational changes. This makes it a family friendly trail rated as 'easy' with minimal experience or technical riding levels needed.

As a multi-seasonal trail, users can enjoy the spring season with an abundant of trailside wildflowers and occasional views of song birds, chipmunks, mule deer and possibly a herd of Rocky Mountain elk. Extended views of the snow-capped views of the Elkhorn Mountains are also available along most of the trail until early June.



The spring recreation season gently transitions into the summer months providing more activities on the trail as well as the adjacent lake. Trail users can continue to enjoy more summer wildflowers, views of ospreys diving for fish, and the sights and sounds of anglers, boaters and water skiers. The fragrances of the younger and old growth ponderosa pine and fir forests mixed with the lake are an added sensory experience along the trail.

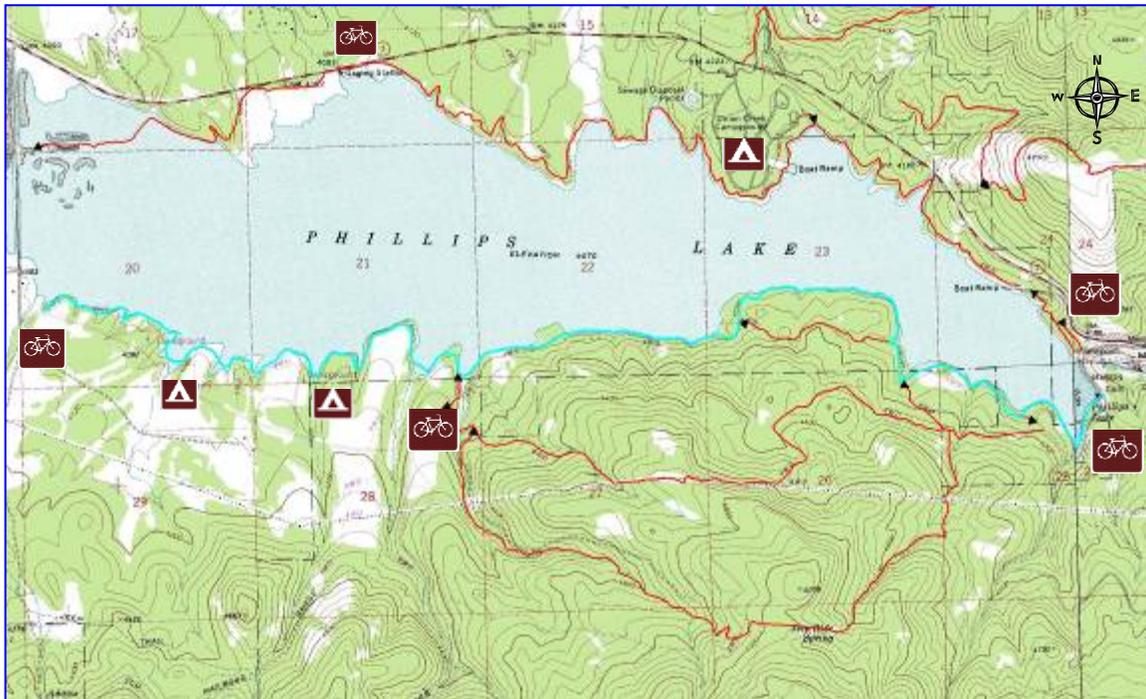
During the fall season, the use drops off after Labor Day with local users hiking, biking and riding the trail to enjoy the fall colors and cooler temperatures. Even with an occasional early snow that often melts off after a few days, the trail's "dry-season" use extends into November.

---

Winter time use on the Nordic Trail (#S-1610) usually begins around late December and extends in to early April. After that the trails may have extended periods of low snow or muddy conditions not suitable for most use.



Access is available at several locations along the route. Visitors can start in the east-side of the lake at the Mason Dam trailhead, or near the South Shore Campground in the west. Parking and access is also offered at the Dean Creek Trailhead near the midway point. Overnight camping is available at the 2 developed south-side campgrounds or in numerous dispersed camping sites. Although the South Shore Phillips Lake Trail is a main “trunk” trail, there are over 8 miles of side trails, and connections to the 6.7 mile north shoreline trail,



**South Shore Phillips Lake Trail**

	Trailheads		South Shore Phillips Lake Trail
	Campgrounds		Other non-motorized trails
			Roads

## Part 2 – Public Notification and Stakeholder Involvement

---

The initial list of stakeholders was identified as having potential interest in the Scenic Trails application process, the specific proposal, how the designation would benefit trail users and how it may affect their interest.

STAKEHOLDER	INTERESTS
<b>—County, State, Federal Governments --</b>	
Baker County – Parks and Recreation Dept.	Local recreation provider and partner
Baker County – County Marketing Committee	Local marketing and tourism
Oregon State Parks and Recreation Dept – Sumpter valley Dredge State Heritage Area	Local recreation provider
<b>-- Local Organizations --</b>	
Baker Loves Bikes	Local recreation partner
Blue Mountain Single Track Trail Club	Local recreation partner
Aud Di Campground Services Inc.	USFS Campground Concessionaire
<b>-- Private landowner within ½ mile of trail --</b>	
Bud Zunino, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Randy & Linda Joseph, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Troy Phillips, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Larry & Susan McNeal, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Thomas Ruzich, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Dennis & Shelia Merrill, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
David & Mary Connolly, Baker City OR	Adjacent Land owner
Richard & Susan Badgley, Baker City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
John D. Arnold, Oregon City, OR	Adjacent Land owner
William M. Champagne, Zig Zag, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Bar-Bar A Farm LLC, Caldwell, ID	Adjacent Land owner
David W. Ego , Hermiston, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Francis E. Deroest Jr, Powell Butte, OR	Adjacent Land owner
Dale F. Heaton, Scapoose, OR	Adjacent Land owner

In order to reach interested trail users and other stakeholders, the following methods were employed for public notification:

### Public Meeting

---





## Part 3 – Trail Facility Review

### Inventory of Existing Conditions

The South Shore Phillips Lake Trail includes a combination of the main trail along the lake, trail junctions leading to other associated designated trails, support facilities (trailheads/access points, parking, restrooms) and signage:

**TRAIL** – The South Shore Phillips Lake Trail (SSPL) trail is composed of 6.6 miles of native surface trail that is designated for non-motorized use (See Appendix A). Located entirely on National Forest system lands, the trail (#1610) contours along Phillips Lake and was constructed above the high water line to connect Mason Dam to the two western developed campgrounds. The tread width ranges from 18 to 24 inches. The trail is at 4100 foot elevation with only slight elevational changes. It is rated as ‘easy’ with minimal experience or technical riding levels required although some sections have up to XX% grade for short spans. Known trail structures are found in **Table 1**. The SSPL trail also connects to about 13 miles of adjacent non-motorized trails that are currently being used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians riders.

Table 1

Trail structure	Qty	Condition & Improvement Needs
Trail tread	6.6 miles	Good- Fair; 50/50 native surface and spot graveled trail; needs annual maintenance (e.g. Side slope sloughing, grass encroachment; drainage repair)
Trail bridges	46 feet total length	Black Mtn Creek bridge (28 ft) with hand rails and 2"x6" decking in fair condition; Dean Creek Bridge (18 ft) with no curbing or rails, and 2" x 6" decking in poor condition, needing total reconstruction
Culverts and rock drainage structures	5+	Fair- Poor; need replaced or re-set;
Puncheon in wetlands	500 ft	Poor-Very Poor; Total of 5 puncheons ranging from 7 to 226 feet constructed to protect wetlands. Both the short and longer sections need major reconstruction (eg. Replace sills, curbing, decking, approaches)



Typical trail segment going through the forested Ponderosa pine areas on the eastern side of the trail



A meandering section of the trail through the cool pine/fir forest with occasional “sneak peeks” of the lake



A general trail segment in the western side going through the open sagebrush/grasslands with views of the Phillips Lake and Elkhorn mountains

---



Black Mtn Creek trail bridge located near eastern trailhead; Some handrail and curb repair work was done with partners in 2014



The 226 foot long trail puncheon crossing over wetlands near Dean Creek. Estimated construction over 25 years ago. Decking, sills, and curbing need major reconstruction, and new approaches



Two of the four short trail puncheons vary from 7 to 40 feet. Same maintenance needs as above.

---

**SUPPORT FACILITIES** - The trail has two small designated trailheads with minimal amenities and two developed campgrounds along the trail which users can utilize for overnight or day use (**Table 2**). The SE Shore Trailhead is located near the Mason Dam, and heading west along the trail the Dean Creek Trailhead is located about 3.5 miles away. The two campgrounds, Millers Lane and SW Shore are located in the western side of the trail (See Appendix A).



Dean Creek Trailhead on Baker  
Loves Bikes workday - 2014

Table 2

Facility	Structures/Amenities	Condition & Improvement Needs
SE Shore Trailhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graveled parking for 7 vehicles</li> <li>• Information board</li> <li>• Rock parking barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Fee site</li> <li>• FS operated (June – Sept)</li> <li>• <b>Needs:</b> Additional Information board panel; possible vault toilet</li> </ul>
Dean Creek Trailhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graveled parking for 5 vehicles</li> <li>• Information board</li> <li>• Rock and Buck-n-pole fence parking barriers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-Fee site</li> <li>• FS operated (June – Sept)</li> <li>• <b>Needs:</b> Additional Information board panel; possible vault toilet</li> </ul>
Millers Lane Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Vault Toilet</li> <li>• 8 campsites with tables, firerings, parking, graveled parking spurs (some sites suitable for trailers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee site</li> <li>• Concessionaire operated (June –Sept)</li> <li>• Fair- Good condition</li> </ul>
SW Shore Campground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Vault Toilets</li> <li>• 16 campsites with tables, firerings, parking, graveled parking spurs (most sites suitable for trailers; 2 sites are fully accessible for people with disabilities)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fee site</li> <li>• Concessionaire operated (June –Sept)</li> <li>• Fair- Good condition</li> </ul>

**SIGNAGE** – Overall signage along the trail is adequate for the total number of signs yet their condition is fair to poor. There are approximately 6 trail distance/directional signs at the trailheads and campgrounds; and plastic trail number posts at several locations. Since this is also a multi-season Nordic ski trail there are over 50 plastic ‘blue diamond’ trail assurance blazes all along the route.

*Needs:*

- More trail overview maps posted at the trailheads and campground
- ‘Grab & Go’ maps available at the 4 main information boards
- Additional trail junction signs with direction and mileages
- Replacement of existing damaged wooden signs



## Future Needs Assessment

The future needs are detailed above, however the priority for these needs includes:

Priority	Facility/ Structure Need
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual trail maintenance</li> <li>• Reconstruction of Dean Creek bridge</li> <li>• Repair/reconstruction of Long 224' puncheon</li> </ul>
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair of Black Mtn Bridge</li> <li>• Repair/reconstruction of short puncheons</li> <li>• Upgrade to 2-panel style information board at Dean Creek and SE Shore Trailheads</li> <li>• Installation of new trail junction signs</li> <li>• Replacement of existing damaged wooden signs</li> </ul>
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair/reconstruction of culverts and drainage structures</li> <li>• Installation of toilets at Dean Creek and SE Shore Trailheads</li> </ul>

## Existing Management Plans

The management of the SSPL trail is covered under the following Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) plans and USDA Forest Service agency direction:

Reference	Direction
Forest Service (FS) Manual - 2350	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agency policy for trails</li> <li>• Relevant laws for construction and maintenance</li> <li>• Requirement to establish a Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) to include: Trail Fundamentals (<i>trail type, trail class, managed use, designed use, and design parameters</i>); Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classifications; design criteria; travel management strategies;, and maintenance criteria.</li> </ul>
FS Handbook- 2309.18, Trails Management Handbook	<p>General direction for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail Planning</li> <li>• Development</li> <li>• Construction</li> <li>• Operations &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Construction Exhibits</li> </ul>
FS Handbook- 1909.15, National Environmental Policy handbook – Chapter 30	<p>General direction for Categorical Exclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ch 32.12 (4) "<i>Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries</i>". (Same as 36 CFR 220.6 (d) (4).</li> <li>• Ch 32.2 (1) "<i>Construction and reconstruction of trails.</i>" (Same as 36 CFR 220.6 (e).</li> </ul>
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	<p>Phillips Lake Area (Management Area 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10. Recreation – <i>Manage recreation consistent with the Reservoir Area Management Plan.</i></li> </ul>
<i>Phillips Lake -Reservoir Area Management Plan</i>	XXXXXX

# Part 4 – Management, Maintenance and Monitoring

---

## Coordination of Trail Maintenance

The SSPL trail is a popular multi-season trail that is less than 20 miles from Baker City, adjacent to the “Journey Through Time” State Scenic Byway, and the Union Creek campground complex. Because of this popularity it has always been a high priority for annual maintenance by FS crews.



2014 Baker Loves Bike Work Day

During the 2014 the WWNF entered into a volunteer agreement with a local mountain bike organization (Baker Loves Bikes) to conduct basic trail maintenance, in conjunction with FS crews. Following completion of the partnership agreement summarized below specific maintenance responsibilities will be agreed upon by both the FS and mountain bike clubs.



Major maintenance responsibilities will include:

- Trail or trail segments to be maintained
- Use of FS trail maintenance standards
- Frequency of work
- Reporting methods, local contacts, and time frames

## Coordination of Trail Management

As directed in the Forest Service Manual, the local WWNF and Whitman Ranger District will be the primary manager of the trail for tasks such as planning, coordination with other resources, addressing safety concerns and operations and maintenance. However due to the local interest and successful work done in 2014, the WWNF will coordinate the management with the mountain bike organizations in the partnership agreement summarized below. Major management responsibilities will include:

- Existing areas of resource or safety concern
  - Out-year opportunities for trail enhancements
-

- Out-year opportunities for facilities enhancements
- Grant and partnership opportunities
- Reporting methods and local contacts

## **Intergovernmental Agreements**

Since the trail is located entirely on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, there are no other government agency involved in the management of this trail.

## **Partnership Agreements**

For the past several years local mountain bike, equestrian, snowmobile, hiker and OHV clubs and organizations have been completing a variety of maintenance work on the forest's trails. This beneficial work has mainly been covered under special use permits (snowmobile, bike, hiker) and volunteer agreements (bike, equestrian, OHV). Work on the SSPL trail has been done by local bike organizations under a volunteer agreement,

To coordinate all of the mountain bike interests, the WWNF is working with the three main mountain bike organizations to authorize a partnership agreement for 2015 to conduct maintenance and monitoring on SSPL and other forest bike trails. The organizations include: Baker Loves Bikes, Blue Mountain Singletrack Trails Club (*bluemountainstc.org*), and Eagle Cap Nordic Ski Club.

## **Monitoring Trail and Support Facility Conditions, Adjacent Land Use, Level of Use**

The above referenced partnership agreement with the bike organizations will augment the Forest Service's work in monitoring the trail and support facilities.

The objective of the monitoring reviews (conducted 3-4 times/year) will focus on:

- Seasonal trail or facility hazards
- Loss of signs of trailhead information
- Vandalism
- Trail-side trash, or facility maintenance needs
- Construction of unauthorized features or resource damage (i.e. jumps, user built trails, stream blockages)
- Trail use observations

This information will be reported back to the Whitman Ranger District Recreation Manager for work plan scheduling to immediately address the condition (safety hazards) or out-year planning.

---

## Part 5 – Future Opportunities

---

### **Other Connecting Trails**

The SSPL trail is one of several other multi-season trails that exist on the south-side of Phillips Lake (see Appendix A). These 6 connecting non-motorized trails provide an additional 8 miles of use for summer and winter recreationists.

The trails exhibit some of the same facility maintenance needs as detailed for SPPL such as rejuvenating the trail tread, brushing, and installing additional signage.

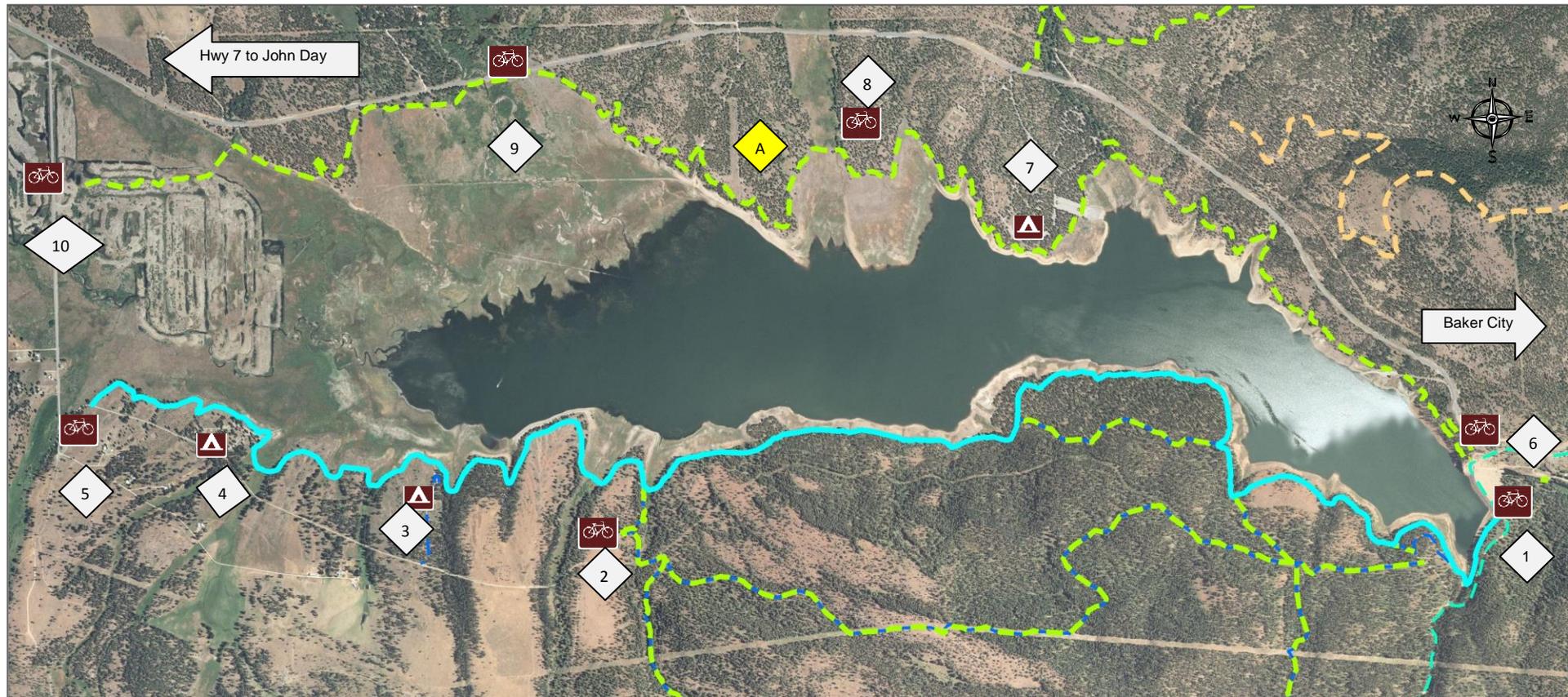
### **North-side Lake Trail Loop**

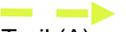
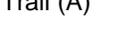
Although the SSPL is the main trail on the south-side of the lake, there is also a shoreline trail on the northern side of the lake. The Phillips Lake North Shoreline (#1608) is 6.7 miles long and starts at Mason Dam and ends near the upper rock tailings by Hudspeth Road. Trailside facilities include the Mason Dam Boat Launch, Union Creek Campground and Day-Use Area, and Mowich Loop Picnic Area.

One of the more significant improvements needed for this trail is the connection to the South Shore Phillips Lake Trail on the east and west side of the lake. On the west side, trail users exiting off the SSPL must ride along Forest Service road 2226 for 0.3 miles. This is a gravel surface road which is the main access road to the southside lake campgrounds and other forest activities. Trail users then need to ride for 0.7 miles on the paved Hudspeth road to get to the north shoreline trail. To continue the lake “loop” riders on the north shoreline trail end up on the east end of the lake at the Mason Dam boat launch. From here they usually ride for 0.3 miles up the boat launch road, then for 0.5 miles along State Highway 7, then down across the Mason Dam gravel road for 0.6 miles to the SSPL eastern trailhead. There are options available that would involve additional trail sections to connect the north-side and SSPL trails for lake loop recreation experience.

---

### South Shore Phillips Lake Trail – Trail Location and Support Facility Map



<p><b>Map Key</b></p> <p>Trailheads </p> <p>Campgrounds &amp; Day Use Areas </p> <p>Phillips Lake South Shore Trail </p> <p>Other non-motorized trails </p> <p>Phillips Lake North Shoreline Trail (A) </p>	<p><b>South Shore Facilities</b></p> <p>SE Shore Trailhead (1)</p> <p>Dean Creek Trailhead (2)</p> <p>SW Shore Campground (3)</p> <p>Millers Lane Campground (4)</p> <p>SW Trail Access (5)</p>	<p><b>North Shore Facilities</b></p> <p>Mason Dam Boat Launch (6)</p> <p>Union Creek Campground (7)</p> <p>Social Security Point access (8)</p> <p>Mowich Picnic Area access (9)</p> <p>NW trail access (10)</p>
--	---	--

PLEASE DON'T TELL  
EVERYONE ABOUT

**EASTERN  
OREGON**

THANK YOU

## Eastern Oregon Visitors Association

15477 Sky Ranch Lane

Haines, Oregon 97833

Phone: 541-856-3356

Cell Ph: 541-519-7235

Email: [eova@eoni.com](mailto:eova@eoni.com)

Website: [www.eova.com](http://www.eova.com)

April 24, 2015

Rocky Houston  
State Trails Coordinator  
725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Rocky,

Eastern Oregon Visitors Association would like to voice our support of the application by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest to designate the Phillips Lake Trail located in Baker County as an Oregon Scenic Trail.

As you are well aware, bicycle tourism is hugely important to the 11-county region of Eastern Oregon as it contributes to the economy and fosters healthy activities for local citizens as well as visitors. Creating and maintaining safe roadways and trail systems for bicyclists is a key component in the success of our bicycle tourism development strategy. The designation of the Phillips Lake Trail would certainly be a strong addition to the region's marketing efforts in promoting the variety of visitor experiences available in Eastern Oregon.

Please look favorably upon this application and designate the Phillips Lake Trail as an Oregon Scenic Trail.

Respectfully,



Alice Trindle, Exc. Director, EOVA

November 25, 2014

Rocky Houston  
State Trails Coordinator  
725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Rocky,

It has come to our attention that the Wallowa- Whitman National Forest is a proponent of the Phillips Lake Trails being designated a State Scenic Trail by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Baker Loves Bikes would very much like to voice our support of this designation as well.

Baker Loves Bikes is a 501 C3 non-profit organization whose mission is “ *To promote, educate and support greater access, safety and opportunity for all cyclists in Baker County, Oregon.*” As proponents of cycling and partners with the Wallowa- Whitman Forest we believe this designation would be very beneficial not only to our cycling community but to our community as a whole. Being a State Scenic Trail would afford greater exposure to more trail users state wide bringing with it tourist interest and dollars. We truly believe that the Phillips Lake Trails are one of the little known gems in Oregon offering stunning views of the Elkhorn mountain range, abundant recreation opportunities, easy and plentiful camping and close proximity to the cities of Sumpter and Baker City.

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this and we appreciate the opportunity to let you know about what Baker County has to offer recreational trail users.

Thank you,

/s/ Patrick Thomas  
Baker Loves Bikes

April 27, 2015

Rocky Houston  
State Trails Coordinator  
725 Summer St. N.E. Suite C  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Houston,

Baker County Tourism has been working with our local recreation representative from the Wallowa- Whitman National Forest Dan Ermovick, and the local cycling advocacy group Baker Loves Bikes, to develop and promote mountain biking opportunities on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, particularly on the established trail system at Phillips Lake. We understand that the Wallowa Whitman National Forest is a proponent of the Phillips Lake Trails being designated a State Scenic Trail by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Baker County Tourism would like to express our strong support for this designation as well.

As cycling and bicycle related tourism continue to grow in prominence throughout the state of Oregon, we believe this designation would be very beneficial not only to our local cycling community but to our community as a whole. Being a State Scenic Trail would afford greater exposure to more trail users state wide bringing with it tourist interest and dollars. Baker County has a great variety of bike trails and we believe that the Phillips Lake trail system is one of the little known gems in Oregon offering stunning views of the Elkhorn mountain range, abundant recreation opportunities, easy and plentiful camping and close proximity to the cities of Sumpter and Baker City. Additionally the Phillips Lake Trails are situated between the Old West Scenic Bikeway and the Grande Tour Scenic Bikeway, and as a designated Scenic Trail, this designation would complement the existing Scenic Bikeways and provide a similarly designated destination for mountain biking, providing a more complete and well rounded recreational cycling experience in Baker County.

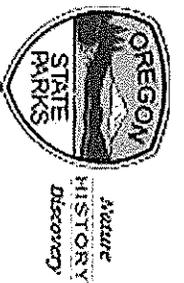
Thank you for your consideration and support for this important tourism and recreation opportunity

Thank you,



Timothy Bishop, CMSM  
Baker County Tourism

Open House on Proposed Designation of  
 South Shore Phillips Lake Trail as State Scenic Trail  
 Date: October 26, 2015 Location: Baker County Library  
 2400 Resort St, Baker City



For	Against	Name - (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Address, phone or email (optional)	Organization Affiliation or Representation
1		Ruth Boyd	910 E. Street 541-523-2974	
2		Trinity Bishop	P.O. Box 861 541-523-1588	Baker County Tourism
3		Peter Johnson	42010 Salmon Creek Rd	Anthony Lakes
4		Pat Thomas	14701 Country Lane	Baker Lovers Bikes
5		Barbara Barlow	64302 Mt. Glen	BWSTC
6		Fann Bartow	" " "	
7		MARTZ, Wm. Harold	1609 5th Street LaGrange OR	BWSTC, Member, U.S. Oregon
8		JOHNSON JAMES M	8101 Main St. Baker City	BBB Puckett's Bike Shop
9		FRONOVIC, DAN	1550 DAWY AVE SWIDA, BAKER-	US FOREST SERVICES
10		LANCE COBURN	57881 GODFREY RD UNIOND	BWSTC
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				

Oregon Parks and Recreation  
Department

Designation of State Trail  
Trail: South Shore Phillips Lake  
Designation: Scenic Trail

PUBLIC COMMENT



OPRD would welcome the opportunity to hear your comments on the designation of this trail as a state designated trail. Please complete this form and return to the facilitator or email your comments to: rocky.houston@state.or.us

I think it sounds great!

Optional:

Name: JARED DOWNSON  
Address: 2101 Main St. Beaverton City OR  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: 541-523-3477  
E-Mail Address: jward@theacornet  
Organization: Magstaff Bike Shop Snow  
Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Oregon Parks and Recreation  
Department

Designation of State Trail  
Trail: South Shore Phillips Lake  
Designation: Scenic Trail

PUBLIC COMMENT



OPRD would welcome the opportunity to hear your comments on the designation of this trail as a state designated trail. Please complete this form and return to the facilitator or email your comments to: rocky.houston@state.or.us

A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNER FRIENDLY YET  
ENJOYABLE TRAIL FOR ALL WHO  
RIDE IT OR HIKE IT VERY  
CLOSE ACCESS TO TOWN AND  
MARKETS & RESTAURANTS. A TRAIL  
THAT NEEDS VERY LITTLE MAINTANCE  
AND HAS BEEN SUSTAINABLE FOR  
MANY YEARS

Optional:

Name: WYATT FIELD HAERTZ  
Address: 1401 SWE SWEET  
City/State/Zip: LA GRAND, OR 97858  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: BLUE MOUNTAIN SINGLE TRACK CLUB  
Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

Oregon Parks and Recreation  
Department

Designation of State Trail

Trail: South Shore Phillips Lake

Designation: Scenic Trail

**PUBLIC COMMENT**



Nature  
**HISTORY**  
Discovery

OPRD would welcome the opportunity to hear your comments on the designation of this trail as a state designated trail. Please complete this form and return to the facilitator or email your comments to: rocky.houston@state.or.us

Back opportunity for local people trying to visit - also good for knowledge

Remember to visit

Back over embankment - remember questions will be - thanks

**Optional:**

Name: R. Boyd  
Address: 910 E 1st  
City/State/Zip: Baker, OR 97008  
Phone Number: 503-523-2876  
E-Mail Address:  
Organization:  
Represented:

Oregon Parks and Recreation  
Department

Designation of State Trail

Trail: South Shore Phillips Lake

Designation: Scenic Trail

**PUBLIC COMMENT**



Nature  
**HISTORY**  
Discovery

OPRD would welcome the opportunity to hear your comments on the designation of this trail as a state designated trail. Please complete this form and return to the facilitator or email your comments to: rocky.houston@state.or.us

Baker loves Baker is in full support of scenic trail designation. It is our belief that this trail is a real community asset to continue partnering with the Willamette - Whitman forest to help maintain & preserve this trail.

**Optional:**

Name: Pat Thomas  
Address: 14701 Country Lane  
City/State/Zip: Baker City, OR 97814  
Phone Number: 541-403-2616  
E-Mail Address: fangetaur@gmail.com  
Organization: Baker Loves Baker  
Represented:

Submitted	Please select the box that indicates your position on the designation of this trail	Comment	Name_(optional)
10/29/2015 20:38	For	This is a great trail and an appropriate designation. I completely support this effort and will appreciate it. Jerold Hustafa, President of the Eagle Cap Nordic Club, Joseph OR.	Jerold Hustafa
10/30/2015 10:44	For	Fun, scenic riding right around the reservoir. I have been riding on these trails since grade school as a boy scout and it would be a shame to lose them or have motorized access this close to water. With further trail development these could be real gem in NE Oregon	
10/30/2015 17:03	For	I would like to see continued development and advertising of biking opportunities in northeast Oregon.	aric johnson
10/20/2015 17:20	For	This trail is an outstanding example of what defines Oregon". Quiet solitude (most of the time) fantastic scenery clean air...and it adjoins a beautiful mountain reservoir. For those of us fortunate to live nearby (Baker City), this is a win-win proposal	Dave Hunsaker
11/2/2015 13:59	For	I am very excited about this trail designation. My suggestion would be to place a vault toilet on the SE Shore Trailhead, moving this from low priority to high priority. This trailhead receives heavier use than the western end, and is a logical starting point for visitors driving from Baker City. I would also recommend that the short puncheon repair/construction objective be moved from moderate to high priority, as some have developed holes and have quite a bit of rot. Thank you for considering my comments.	Mary Miller
11/6/2015 12:02	For	Looks great hope to get out there next Spring.	Philip Richardson Philip Richardson