

Annual Report

Achievements Since October, 2017

Actions by the Board of Directors

1. Valley Segment Comprehensive Planning Began. Parametrix was hired and began analyzing base conditions, developing an analysis of trail alternatives, and looking at possible trailhead locations. An advisory committee was formed and a field trip was conducted. A contract amendment was signed with Parametrix to develop the work plan and cost estimates for a planning study of the Canyon Segment.

2. Salmonberry Trail Right-of-Way Officially Railbanked. In 1983, the U.S. Congress amended the National Trails System Act to create the railbanking program. Railbanking is a method by which lines proposed for abandonment can be preserved for future rail use through interim conversion to trail use. In 2016, the POTB and STIA requested that the Salmonberry rail corridor be railbanked. In 2017, 81.07 miles of ROW was officially approved by the federal government for railbanking.

3. Approval of the Second Amendment to the Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The state Department of Justice attorney made some suggestions on reducing liability for the four signatory partners. An amendment to the IGA was approved.

4. Election of Co-Conveners for STIA for Calendar Year 2018. By consensus, the Board reappointed Lisa and Peter as co-conveners for calendar year 2018.

5. Lease Approved with the POTB. The Board approved a lease agreement with the POTB for the 86 miles of right-of-way for the Salmonberry Trail.

6. The Salmonberry Trail as an Oregon Solutions Project was Renewed. The Governor issued a continuance of the Salmonberry Trail as an Oregon Solutions Program and reappointed Peter and Lisa as co-conveners of the project.

Completion of a Trail Benefits Study. Paul Manson from Portland State University provided his report on the Trail Benefits Study. The key finding is that the economic benefits of the trail are estimated to be over \$20 million per year with over 276,000 day-visits per year. Benefits are estimated to be greatest for cycle-based visitation, but also important for walkers and hikers based on the design of the trail. Other benefits from equestrian use, hunting, fishing, and backpacking are possible in addition to this estimate.

8. Use Agreement Review Process. The Board adopted a process for analyzing use agreements of the right-of-way and their impact on the trail. A flowchart was developed, showing three different levels of use that would be analyzed—small, medium, and complex—and who would review and approve them.

9. Funding for General Administration of STIA. ORPD and DOF will pay the calendar-year 2018 Oregon Solutions contract amount of \$9,500.

Partners agreed to each fund a portion of the general administration costs in 2019.

10. Tour Construction of Western-Most Segment of the Salmonberry Trail. The Board was given a tour of

the city of Tillamook's Crosstown Connection Multi-Purpose Trail. [The](#) trail links Goodspeed Park to Hoquarton Park and is technically the western most end of the future Salmonberry Trail.

Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust Salmonberry Projects and Fundraising Efforts

1. Rails to Trails Conservancy Grant/PSU Economic and Health Benefits Study. With a \$30,000 grant from the Rails to Trails Conservancy, TFHT contracted with the Center for Public Service at PSU to conduct this study. Paul Manson of PSU made presentations and took input from the STIA Board at several points in the study process. Drafts of a final report were reviewed with the Board at their April and June 2018 Board meetings.

2. WCVA Grant/Valley Segment Planning Process. TFHT administered a \$200,000 grant from the Washington County Visitors Association to provide support to the OPRD Project Manager position (\$50,000) and to complete a Valley Segment Master Plan (\$150,000). The Valley Segment planning process took place over the course of the past year, and is scheduled to culminate with presentation of the final report at the October Board meeting.

3. WCVA Grant/Manning Trailhead Catalyst Project. TFHT began administration of a \$100,000 grant from the Washington County Visitors Association to provide funding for the Manning Trailhead expansion project. The WCVA funds are being combined with in-kind materials and services (~\$50,000) from OPRD to fund trailhead expansion and improvements at an existing Banks-Vernonia trailhead that will serve as a dual trailhead in the future. OPRD is currently soliciting bids for project construction, and work is expected to commence in October 2018.

4. Valley Segment Catalyst Loop Project. TFHT has worked with OPRD staff, WCVA and others to

develop information for a proposed catalyst loop project that would start at the Manning trailhead. The loop project would entail ~3.5 miles of initial Salmonberry Trail development, and the construction of a 1-mile connector trail to the Banks-Vernonia Trail in Stub Stewart State Park. This catalyst project would result in the creation of a 9-mile loop out of the Manning trailhead. TFHT has contracted with Metropolitan Group and is currently developing a capital campaign action plan for this initial project.

5. Congressional Delegation Visits. In December of 2017, representatives of TFHT spent three days in Washington, D.C. visiting with and briefing members of Oregon's congressional delegation. During the summer of 2018, several staff members of Oregon's Senators and Representatives attended TFHT hosted field trips in western Washington County to view the project.

6. Grants received for projects and TFHT capacity in 2018 include...

- \$25,000 capacity grant from the Oregon Community Foundation (Year two)
- \$25,000 capacity grant from Cycle Oregon
- \$30,000 Doppelt Family grant from the Rails to Trails Conservancy
- \$200,000 grant from the Washington County Visitors Association
- \$100,000 grant from the Washington County Visitors Association

TFHT has received over \$16,000 in project donations from individuals and small foundations in the past year.

Salmonberry Trail 2018 Media Summary

Social Media

- Facebook
 - ~1000 Followers
 - Reach (this year): 22,376
- Instagram: ~300 Followers
- Newsletter: ~900 Subscribers with over 50% open rate
- Twitter: ~300 Followers (primarily from the media)
- Website:
 - 21,000 unique visitors in the last year
 - 44,000 page views

News Media

Portland Tribune

Salmonberry Trail Gaining Traction, Olivia Singer: August 15th, 2018

Highlights:

- Covering the hike with Rep. Suzanne Bonamici
- Importance of the collaboration between Tillamook & Washington Counties
- Uniqueness of the trail's segments
- Public discourse and mitigating different opinions
- Opportunity to meet demand of outdoor recreation
- Economic Benefits to local communities
- User Diversity that creates a positive feedback loop between access and protection
- Regional Use with statewide landmark and legacy

"One big part of that is that this one big trail project is part of an even bigger network of regional trails. "When this trail is completed, the possibility of walking from Mount Hood to the coast on a trail becomes possible," Gabbert said. "It's not just Washington County and Tillamook County (who will benefit). It's really going to be a regional landmark, in my opinion." He added, "I think it's a great story of opening these places up so people can see what we've got, and I'm a firm believer that if you give people access to these special places, they're going to protect them. They're going to take care of them."

Daily Astorian

The Salmonberry Trail, A silver lining from the Great Coastal Gale of 2007, Skyler Archibald: August 2nd, 2018

Highlights

- Highlight of the Oregon Recreational Trails Advisory Council in July was The Salmonberry Trail
- History of the PR&N railroad and the aftermath of the Great Coastal Gale of 2007
- How The Salmonberry Trail is the silver lining to the storm
- How the project is inspiring and how the trail "...has the potential to be transcendent in its benefits to all Oregonians and visitors."

"I was deeply moved by the work of the individuals involved with this project and will closely monitor and participate in the next steps. As I've stated previously, we live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world and this trail would highlight much of what our region has to offer as it winds from the rich fertile Willamette Valley through the majestic Tillamook Forest partly along the Nehalem River and concludes along the scenic stretch of Highway 101 from Wheeler to Tillamook.

The Salmonberry Trail would also offer connections from the greater Portland area to the coast for outdoor enthusiasts and provide a safer option than navigating the current highways for travelers not in a vehicle."

KGW8

Salmonberry Trail Project Connecting Banks to Coast Get Approval (VIDEO), Brian Brennan: April 6th, 2018

Highlights

- Historical significance and scenic beauty across Oregon
- Large milestones accomplished this year
- Unique terrain that warrants global awareness
- Local input/interview

"It's a great way to spend the day," said Melanie Moler who we met after she finished a 42-mile bike ride on the Banks-Vernonia Trail. "You see some beautiful land."

The Salmonberry Trail would not only be a scenic journey from Banks through the Coast Range and to Tillamook, but it would follow a historic path along old railroad tracks.

"Running along this old historic corridor which has all these historical connections," said Project Manager Dennis Wiley. "This railroad really connected the coast to Portland for the first time ever."

Portland Monthly

At Last, the Portland-to-Coast Salmonberry Trail Gets the Green Light, Ramona DeNies: March 3rd, 2018

Highlights

- History of the PR&N Railroad
- Collaboration of agencies involved on STIA and organizations like Cycle Oregon
- User opportunities and beauty of the trail
- Fundraising efforts and the complexity of the project

*"Now, an ambitious vision for putting this route back into use—this time, for hikers—looks like it might actually happen. Over the past decade, **the 86-mile Salmonberry Trail has been thoroughly mapped, heading east from the coast to Banks, Oregon.** Its supporters (multiple agencies including the port, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, and the Tillamook Forest Heritage Trust) coalesced into the official **Salmonberry Trail Intergovernmental Agency.**"*

OPB

Oregon's Portland-To-Coast Trail Is Closer To Becoming A Reality, Kristian Foden-Vencil: June 1st, 2017

Highlights

- Grants from Rails to Trails Conservancy
- Extended Timeline

"An 86-mile bike and walking trail between the Portland metro area and the Oregon Coast is one step closer to becoming a reality. The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has given the Salmonberry Trail project \$30,000 to look at the economics and health benefits of turning the old Port of Tillamook Bay rail line into a trail."

Additional Coverage

- Bike Portland's articles tagged with The Salmonberry Trail