

## Joseph Branch – Rail-Trail Concept Planning

### Wallowa Meeting:

Wallowa Senior Center, East Second St

December 3, 2014

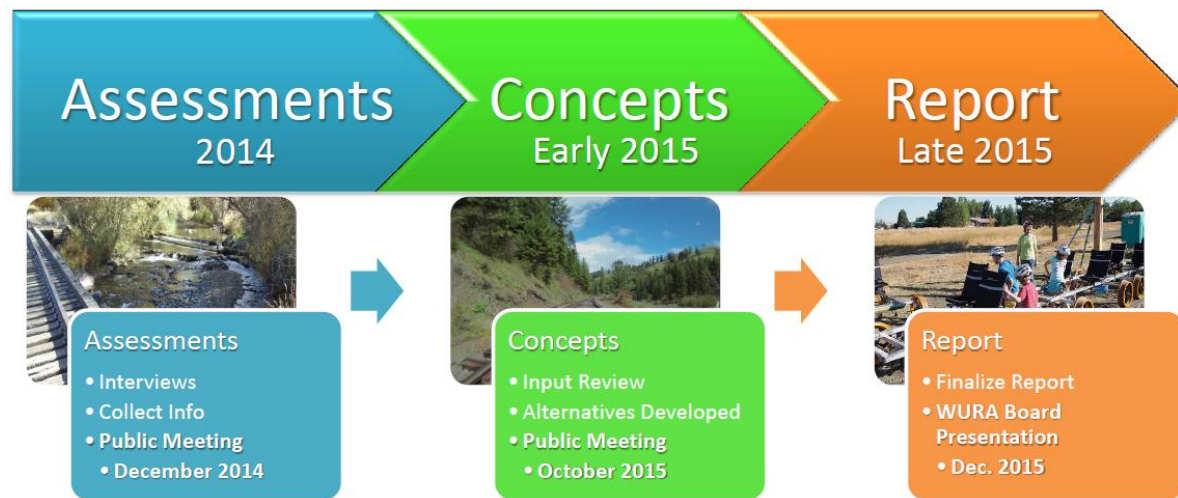
### Meeting Summary

#### Project Background

Citizens of Wallowa and Union Counties approached the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority (WURA) and asked about the feasibility of a rail-trail on rail right-of-way from Elgin to Joseph. WURA approached local, regional and state partners about developing a partnership to review the feasibility and suitability of a rail-trail. The planning team has developed a scope of work and process to help determine the following in a concept plan:

- The level of local community support for the rail-with-trail concept;
- Physical and environmental conditions within the rail corridor and how a trail could be accommodated within and/or adjacent to the existing right-of-way;
- Impacts that the trail could have on existing and future uses within and adjacent to the rail corridor;
- Opportunities that the trail could provide for local and regional recreation;
- Opportunities that the trail could provide for tourism and economic development;
- Opportunities for integrated education and community learning led by a major Oregon University partner;
- Whether the trail could be designed and managed to address concerns identified by WURA, local communities, landowners, and agencies; and
- Options for funding the cost of development and of ongoing maintenance of the trail.

The planning process will follow three phases: Assessments, Concepts and Report.



**Review of Existing Conditions Report**

The planning is currently in the assessment phase. There was an overview of the assessments being conducted, such as:

- Stakeholder Input
- Economic Impact Assessment
- Adjacent Land use Assessment
- Historic Assets Assessment
- Existing Recreation and Tourism Asset Assessment
- Physical Assets Assessment
- Physical Environment Assessment

### Small Group Breakout Sessions

The attendees broke into small groups to review the map tiles for the project area. They provided the planning team input on opportunities, concerns/challenges and other pertinent information. The data was collected on large map books.

### Large Group Discussion

The attendees got back together and reviewed common themes of comments.

### Summary of Common Comment Themes

Constraints/Concerns	Opportunities	Map Tiles	Trail Types/Use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trespass/impacts to properties (access locations?)</li> <li>• Historic sites</li> <li>• Accommodate multi-use</li> <li>• Don't allow motorized</li> <li>• Topography concerns</li> <li>• Need cattle fencing/ cross tracks</li> <li>• Emergency access/ cell coverage</li> <li>• Need to be sensitive to land owners</li> <li>• Rail crossings</li> <li>• Water access</li> <li>• Perception re: farm/ ranching practices</li> <li>• Environmental impacts?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiber optics/ infrastructure</li> <li>• Tourism businesses</li> <li>• Workforce/business development</li> <li>• Fishing opportunities/rafting (close to home)</li> <li>• Services in towns (lodging)</li> <li>• Access to public land</li> <li>• Trail inside tracks?</li> <li>• Can serve local needs</li> <li>• Multi-modal access/airport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to corridor</li> <li>• Private road/crossings</li> <li>• Concession opportunity</li> <li>• Wildlife opportunity</li> <li>• Need good signage/rules</li> <li>• Equestrian access-rural</li> <li>• Opportunities to connect to bike routes/ rail carts</li> <li>• Feasibility of widening rail bed (alternate bike route)</li> <li>• Need to label landmarks</li> <li>• Need to locate restrooms</li> <li>• Need to engage with other partners/orgs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed trail use-surface type?</li> <li>• Soft surface</li> <li>• 10 miles paved from Elgin?</li> </ul>

### Next Steps

The planning team will review the information gathered through the public workshops. This information will be useful for the team to identify and investigate alternative concepts for trail development and route alternatives. A community survey will come out in April 2015. The next public workshop is scheduled for the fall of 2015.

**Small Group Comments:**

<b>Map set #1</b>
<b>Challenges-</b>
liability
tax- payer money
rail should have gone out, utilities should have gone
debt
invasive weeds
what is the need for it, there are already county roads that parallel that route
people in our back yard who "don't understand our way of life"
if county wants to designate cost
millions comes from tax payer, zoning issue
rancher - 2 miles of front,shop 70 ft from theft
don't need it, improve roads
loose dogs, worried about livestock
<b>Opportunities-</b>
fiber optics and gas line
sell tracks
get rid of ties and steel will pay off property and maintain corridor
bike won't make any money

#	Comment	Tile	Type
	private boundaries, was for commerce 1906 for pleasure and dogs	tile 14	O
	specific concern? Is it Smjekal?	tile 15	O
	cont.	tile 16	O
	firing range	tile 17	O
	log yard owned by Shints	tile 17	O
	worries about trespass and theft	tile 17	O
	adjacent road opportunity	tile 18	G
	concern, not worried specifically, just don't see the need. What's proposed at the bridges?	tile 19	O
	property owner, concerns	tile 19	O
	livestock concerns	tile 19	O
	worried about access, e.g. emergency response to injury	tile 19	O
	drainage problems - spring , rail under a foot of water	tile 19	O
	Dogs, again	tile 20	O
	opportunity, tick hill whiskey creek adjacent roads	tile 20	G
	shops, tools, ha\ogshed	tile 21	O
	concerns - if someone climbs it and breaks their arm, who is liable?	tile 21	O
	bulls	tile 21	G

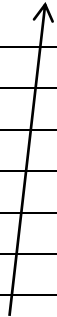

	crossing at warnock road already has livestock crossing issues	tile 21	O
	livestock and dogs are a problem (swamps)	tile 22	O
	opportunity adjacent roads	tile 22	G
	Cattle, who's going to pay for maintenance? Tax payers?	tile 23	O
	even station, landowners opposed, mean mules, equipment sheds, tools	tile 23	G

<b>Map Set #2</b>
<b>Challenges-</b>
track maintenance
width of trail in canyon - physical constraints
livestock issues - impact from users - separation of trail
off leash animals - good signage to mitigate
visibility screening/privacy
erosion issues adjacent to rail
motorized vs non motorized - non moto pref
Trail size - appropriate for levels
<b>Opportunities-</b>
local asset vs outside visitation
event facility
hunting will be addressed
big addition for tourism
opportunity for different trail groups
mileage between access
rafting and paddling resources
train + trail rec. opportunity

#	Comment	Tile	Type
	fishing opportunity	tile 14	G
	restroom	tile 14	G
	portable water	tile 14	G
	equine th /parking	tile 14	G
	interpretive opportunities	tile 14	G
	landlock - no access to highway	tile 15	O
	look for flat spot/rest stops/dam use	tile 15	G
	opportunity to acquire for day use? - Doc Halls house R.I.P.	tile 16	G
	Wildlife viewing in canyon	tile 16	G
	parking at ODOT property - ODFW manages	tile 17	B
	river access	tile 17	G
	fencing/screening - animal issues - logging trucks	tile 17	G
	potable water at gun club	tile 17	G

	a stretch through Wallowa paved about 5 miles	tile 18	G
	consider loops with roads	tile 18	O
	irrigation on both sides	tile 18	B
	business opportunities	tile 19	B
	RV park and lions park	tile 19	B
	RV park and laundry	tile 19	B
	RV park	tile 19	B
	homeland project - welcomes trail adding and bridge across the river	tile 19	G
	toilet, potable H2O, existing assets - horse corrals - 3.5 mi. loop trail	tile 19	G
	add restaurants and other assets - nez perce interpretive center	tile 19	B
	lone pine - non-maintained country road	tile 21	G
	B+B potential	tile 23	G
	better access to lostine	tile 23	B
	lostine tavern – possible hotel	tile 23	B

<b>Map Set #5</b>
<b>Challenges-</b>
Crossing back to warnock - wolfe
safety - if someone gets hurt – can't get in with EMS
landowner permission - access
hiking - lewiston example - simple - this is complicated
liabilities - watch dogs for stock - injuries landowner
who responsible for policing, camping, trespass
sanitation - human waste and trash
maintenance
dogs harassing livestock
might it actually help communication
reduction in privacy
county roads already available for this purpose
noxious weeds - both access through areas that are treated or spreading weeds
people object to farm/ranch smells
livestock liability - bulls
added stress on livestock during calving
bridge a whiskey creek high water caused damage
<b>Opportunities-</b>
small grocery stores - gas stations might get some revenue
depends on where marking and trailheads are

#	Comment	Tile	Type	
	only develops Elgin to minam	tile 14		
	more saleable because not accessible by other means	tile 14		
	camping	tile 16		
	little league	tile 16		
	city park	tile 16		
	footbridge going in	tile 16		
	calving ground and livestock - concern at public exposure	tile 22		
	livestock crossing with temp	tile 22		
	concerns with privacy and giving up 6 acres for road and 6 for rail	tile 22		NO
	hand to process - need to	tile 22		DOTS
	how many access points?	tile 22	ON ALL	
	how many places to get on and off	tile 22		
	liability to adjacent landowners	tile 23		
	safety and emergency services	tile 23		
	sanitation	tile 23		
	privacy conflicts with ag and livestock uses	tile 23		
	expense	tile 23		
	depending on where trailhead located could benefit some grocery stores and gas stations	tile 23		
	more sense to develop Elgin to minam, fewer land owners and less accessible by other means	tile 23		