

Joseph Branch – Rail-Trail Concept Planning

Wallowa Meeting:

Wallowa Senior Center, East Second St

December 4, 2014

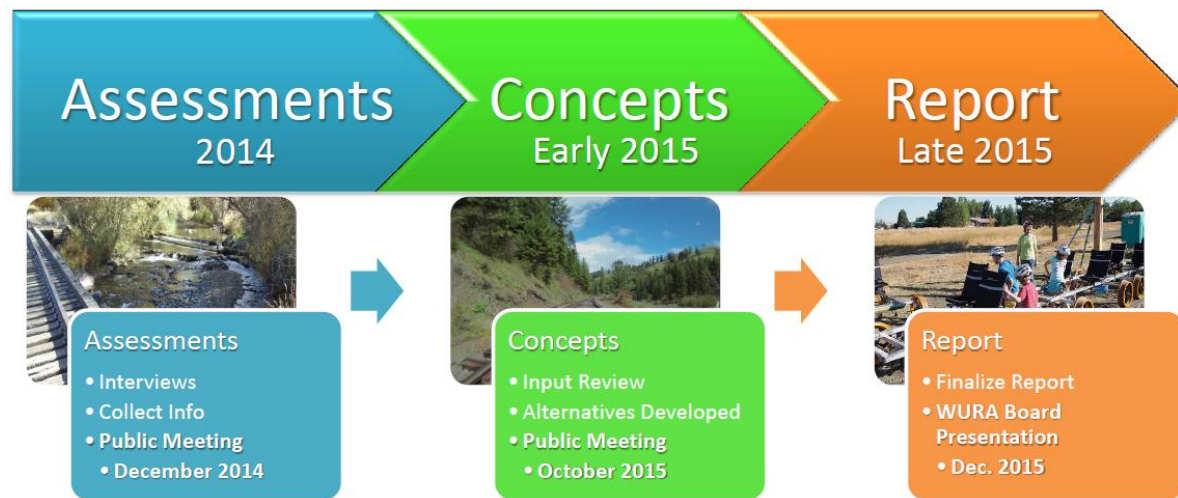
Meeting Summary

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trespassing • Liability • Restrooms • Needs brought in • User conflicts (edu) • Road crossings • Fencing-livestock • Fire • Vandalism • Privacy • De-value of property • Dog leash • Patrolling • Cost benefit • Fire arm (targeting @ your own property) • Maintenance-\$, who, etc. • Enviro impacts • Track condition • Funding • Types of users and type of trials • Need to work with adj. landowners • Concerns • Pot. Costs • Train safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-tourism • Jobs from Eco-tourism • Business impacts • Local use • Family friendly, safety • 4 benefits and health benefits (quality of life) • Connecting communities and (usfs) • All year/ seasons • Rail revenue (fiber optics, etc.) • Access to river (clear access points) • Wildlife viewing • Education opportunities • Existing amenities • Connection with Nez Pierce Trail • Bike path to lake connection • Desirable demo for tourism • Move here draw • Multi-generations facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy road crossings (hawk lights) • Connect with bike loops other facilities • Road crossings=TH • Paved sections for bikes and soft surfaces • Wetlands, wet areas • Irrigation ditches • Viewpoints • raised/elevated trail over water areas • privacy • fishing holes and businesses (guide services) • key loops • paved trail to costs of O&M • river restoration projects (interpretation) • historic tractor display • support resources • rail riding • horse boarding •

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:

Map Set #1
Challenges-
trespass
liabilities
toilets
horses/weeds
conflict of users
crossings
fencing cows
Opportunities-
Tourism
jobs/shuttle
in the canyon(route of high walter) (near Couer d'Alene)
businesses in communities when benefit
family recreation
mental and physical benefits
connecting communities
Use all seasons
pathway vs. trail
fiber optic during construction?

#	Comment	Tile	Type
1	no direct connection to Lostine	24	R
2	parking/trail head	24	G
3	bridges need to be retrofitted	24	R
4	multi use surface (preferred road paved)	24	G
5	biking , mountain biking , horseback, hiking, cross country skiing/ snow shoeing 18" - 24" Horseback/ hiking /paved	25	R
6	ice + curve on highway	25	R
7	trespassing needs to be addressed wanting to fish	25	G
8	biking loop to Leap Lane near enterprise	25	G
9	can identify historic sites	26	G
10	trail head	26	G
11	alternate gravel bike route	26	R
12	sight distance concern - could install Ped activated light for crossing	26	R
13	property owner reabsorbed part of RoW with new fence	27	G
14	river restoration project	27	R
15	alternate route	27	G
16	river access point, interpretive section	28	G

17	golf course	28	G
18	F and W property at confluence of Wallowa and Trout Creek	28	G
19	wildlife refuge	28	G
20	busy crossing/signage	29	R
21	Barking Mad Farm B+B	29	G
22	No city park	29	B
23	city park	29	G
24	hospital	29	G
25	airport	29	G
26	possible conflict with property owners	29	R
27	no city park	30	B
28	loops for bikes	30	G
29	viewpoint/parking/trailhead location	30	G
30	crossing concerns	30	R
31	biking loop	31	G
32	enterprise aquafer	32	R
33	opportunity for skiing	32	G
34	proposed bike park and possible trailhead (owned by city)	32	G
35	airport	32	G
36	needed trailhead connection to downtown and to future trail to lake	32	R

Map set #2
Challenges-
1. Bathrooms, privacy, litter, vandalism, fire, weeds, trespass, liability, conflicts with grazing or impact to landowner, access-where will people get on, will they stay on it; will the project fence areas that are not currently fenced/ who pays for that; safety concerns with trail operations ; irrigation crossings, how will the trail deal with these.
*bathrooms
*working with landowners to address liabilities and cost
Opportunities-
2. Desirable tourism, recreation; revenue, attract people from uot of the area, good way to see country, healthy, people off main street have biz opps, safe-off highway; community health-safe place to ride, bike, walk, - close to town, even ground; ranchers ride horses; attract new residents and families and businesses
*business, opportunities and quality of life
*healthy/safe recreation for many ages
*especially local residences

#	Comment	Tile	Type
	1. green possible B&B	tile 24	G
	2. Green farm stay exists	tile 24	G
	1. orange- concern dog guards (liability)	tile 24	O
	3 green- river restoration project	tile 24	G
	4. green- lodging developing at old hotel next to LT	tile 24	G
	5. Green- Blue Banana	tile 24	G
	6. green- M.Crow- local food and groceries	tile 24	G
	7. Green Lostine com. Center	tile 24	G
	No	tile 25	
	1. Orange- concerns about liability, trespass, etc.	tile 26	O
	1. Green farm stand century farm (24 hr self serve) Outdoor events team roping	tile 27	G
	2. Green river restoration project	tile 27	G
	3. Green guided fly fishing; possible bird hunting or Eco tour ranch tours, private parties	tile 27	G
	4. Possible side trip- on Sunrise Road, can loop back and it leads to a B and B - Barking mad farm	tile 27	G
	5. Green and Sunrise/road tractor display	tile 27	G
	sunrise iron tractor display	tile 28	G
	wildlife area	tile 28	G
	century farm	tile 28	G
	golf course	tile 28	G
	barking mad farm B+B	tile 29	B
	blue is not a city park	tile 29	G
	where city park is	tile 29	G
	vacant lot - possible parking?	tile 29	G
	Low income apartments - not hotel	tile 29	O
	fairgrounds	tile 29	G
	hospital	tile 29	G
	rail rider terminus	tile 30	G
	lots of photo ops and viewpoints	tile 30	G
	nothing	tile 31	
	Cowboy riverfront retreat B+B	tile 32	G
	horse boarding	tile 32	G
	Chief Joseph monument stroll of Nat. history N.P. trail	tile 32	G
	Joseph airport and historic pioneer cemetery	tile 32	G
	siding	tile 32	B
	lots of other B+B's, etc., restaurants	tile 32	G
	Joseph Center	tile 32	G
	Connection to mapped bike routes	tile 32	G
	bike shop at Joseph hardware	tile 32	G

	rodeo grounds - possible future fitness walking trail and possible RV	tile 32	G
	RV park	tile 32	G
	Bronze foundry with tours	tile 32	G
	wallowoogy	tile 32	G

Map Set #3(a)
Challenges-
railroad and river dangerous for horses
needed major fill in
Environmental impact
safety - accidents to people who are lost
cell tower to get call service
no motorized vehicles
keep trash cleaned up
open range
no guns
motorized trail zone
getting cattle from one side to the other
Opportunities-
economic development
access to river for fishing
recreational opportunities for locals
remove track rails
part of year for bikes/part of year for motorized

#	Comment	Tile	Type
1	non motorized, not powered		
2	no horses in town		
3	underground passage for livestock		
4	needs access for cattle across tracks		
5	access for horses		
6	non motorized - soft surface		
7	swamps		
8	mudslides		
9	bald eagles nest		
10	trail head		
11	raft access/camping/equestrian access		
12	bridge rail width constraint		

13	slide		
14	raft opp. Road access		
15	bridge for state park and restroom		
16	equestrian access trail		

Map Set #3(b)
Challenges-
weeds
fire
vandalism and trespassing
restrooms
dogs - leash laws
trash
Maintenance and management (police)
Money, cost, local dollars
cost - benefit
leave it be
livestock - cattle/livestock easements
firearm laws - shooting range
police - bike, horse, train, legal
irregularities - in right of way
Fencing - who maintains
who maintains trail
city wastes
track is definable - rename it best
culverts
family
Opportunities-
Walk/safer/exercise - health - family
connect us with roads
wildlife and views
school/education
economic benefits to community
safety
connect to lake

#	Comment	Tile	Type
	Flat and open, good spot for paved	24	G
	Access to Lostine- needs signs	24	G
	Outdoor school for Wallowa at Enterprise	24	G

	open and flat	25	G
	open nice crossing, near beauty shop lights	26	G
	nice views	27	G
	view!	28	G
	put restrooms, dog bags, near parking, drinking fountain, solar phones	28	G
	access to fish hatchery, wild life, from parking spots- park at fish hatchery?	29	G
	picnic! Access to roads	29	G
	Fish and wildlife, wetland interpretive center	29	G
	increase safety from Enterprise to Joseph	30	G
	great views	30	G
	beautiful mountains	31	G
	connector to joseph	32	G
	culvert needs work	24	G
	close to highway- safety concerns danger passing lane	25	R
	Heavy concrete road and wetlands	25	R
	Floodplain- floods in spring	25	R
	"s-curves" swampy, two feet water on either side	26	R
	Dangerous bridge- needs to be redone, culverts broken	26	R
	new fencing- too close to track?	26	R
	dirt piles, soft land	27	R
	new fencing	27	R
	fault line and wet lands, raised trail area	28	R
	hard/ dangerous intersections	29	R
	feed lot and AG area, auction yard extra concern for dogs in the area	29	R
	resident-tool theft, vandal, danger	29	R
	non-functioning culvert	29	R
	water right concern, creek ends at track- nursery	29	R
	irrigation ditch, culvert, property owners, pedal car is good	30	R
	many rotten rail ties- dangerous	30	R
	property ownership	31	R
	irrigation ditch, joseph water line maintain ditch- livestock right of way	31	R
	flooding during irrigation season	31	R
	irrigation ditch constraint	31	R
	should stop trail here to avoid industrial area	32	R
	Lime Quarry (old) public ownership, Parking, trail down, county owned	28	R
	Rent ride on road- popular route	29	B
	speedy area-not wide enough	30	B
	how would access work?	31	B
	Enterprise water shed	32	B
	activities	32	B

Map Set #4
Challenges-
Connection to another trail - construction of trail; in Elgin
Right of way hiker, camper, horses, bikers - conflicts of use - rules of the road
bikes deter horses - sometimes horses need to be on paved part
trail etiquette
some of it needs to be paved for some bike use
non-motorized use only
fed regs don't allow non-motorized use
where does motorized rail bike fit into restriction against motorized use in RR?
Opportunities-
Camping spots along the RR

#	Comment	Tile	Type
	Steve Arment's new B+B - thinking of rental bikes	24	G
	Crow store - historic grocery/more store	24	B
	blue banana - coffee shop	24	B
	junes Local Market	24	B
	side trail on wade gulch rd - bike or equestrian	25	G
	very swampy, low area, mosquitos	26	Y
	privacy issues- Terry Profit - see what she says - llamas	26	Y
	possible spur in sunrise rd	26	G
	fence in rr property - fence 8ft from rail, new fence just put in	26	Y
	no comment	27	
	farm stand, century farm	28	B
	junky site - screen trail for views	28	B
	good fishing spot (another one by Wade pond)	28	G
	house close to RR-privacy issue	28	Y
	tight with residence close to RR	28	Y
	fish hatchery and wildlife restoration - wildlife viewing	29	G
	side trail with hurricane creek bike route	29	G
	potential trail head and fish hatchery	29	G
	Enterprise city park - bathrooms	29	B
	long horn coffee, tennis courts	29	B
	fairgrounds W.C.	29	B
	non-scenic point	29	Y
	possibly swampy	30	Y
	possible jump-on spot	30	G
	loop with hurricane creek rd	30	G
	W dorrance Rd? - road close to RR - Could be used for trail	31	G
	marshy	32	Y

	city of enterprise watershed	32	Y
	supported site	32	Y
	airport parking lot	32	G
	fishing spot	25	G

Full Map Set/Session
Challenges-
width - narrow
rondowa - prvt property concerns Jim Whitney Property
abuse of resources - private lands
in my back yard - specific in valley
dog off leash or my dog running out
bathrooms
scenic river
encroachments - current
Opportunities-
Expand transportation options within towns
multi use
ADA, horses, bike, hikers (+motorized on rail)
motorized
allow access to Minam to Palmer Junction
increase anglers use (day trips)
fish train already popular
access for bird hunting (Looking glass to Minam)
wildlife viewing
stewardship
family friendly trips/experience
expertise
weed abatement
interp. Walks

#	Comment	Tile	Type
34	good existing trailhead	7	G
35	marker for buzz holstrom - old bridge abutments	8	G
36	restrooms/destination - potential campsite	8	G
37	good fishing	8	G
38	open road after march	9	G
39	dispersed camping option	9	G

40	restroom	10	G
41	old WYE - narrow gauge RR camps, might connect w/ the Maville project	10	G
42	access for swift water access - public safety	10	G
43	blind falls hazard and nice feature to see	11	R
44	viewpoint	11	G
45	restroom	11	G
46	red rock viewpoint	12	G
47	benches along route	12	G
48	rattle snakes minam to looking glass	12	R
49	minam roller - old dam - park was fish hatchery	12	G
50	Ped bridge across river	12	G
51	have RVs be put on rail carts and have tour on train	13	G
52	extend trail to downtown	32	G
53	enterprise watershed	32	G
54	ensure road crossings are marked	32	R
55	viewpoint	32	G
56	picnic site	31	G
57	enterprise water pumping station	31	R
58	restroom	30	G
59	pond stocked w/fish and interp	29	G