On Thursday, April 9, Wallowa County residents listened to how a rail-trail project has been created for five local communities along the project route. This meeting, which was arranged by the Joseph Branch Trail Consortium, included presentations by representatives from two rail-trails: the Weiser River Trail in Idaho and the OC&E Woods Line outside of Klamath Falls. These trails were asked to represent due to the amount of similarities both trails share with the projected Joseph Branch Trail. Residents of Wallowa County were able to express their concerns about the trail with the advocates from Weiser and Klamath Falls. In return they received information on how those trails have impacted their local communities. Panelists during the presentation included landowners adjacent to the trail, citizen organization members, an Oregon State Trails Coordinator and a Recreation Collier Park Unit Manager.

In mid-April surveys were mailed to over 500 residents of Wallowa County, selected at random. This survey was created to gather the opinions about the trail from residents in the local area. Those who were not selected are encouraged to take the survey online at [www.eou.edo/railswith- trail/](http://www.eou.edo/railswith-%20trail/) or they may request a printed copy by contacting Dana Kurtz, Project Manager, at (509) 953-1804. Printed copies of the survey will include a stamped return envelope.

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