

Eastern Oregon University Stationery

Date

[First name] [Last name]

[Address]

[City], [State] [Zip]

Dear [First name] [Last name]:

The Wallowa Union Rail Authority (WURA) is studying the feasibility and suitability of constructing a recreational trail within the Joseph Branch Railroad right-of-way between Elgin and Joseph. WURA has partnered with Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to study the feasibility of a rail-with-trail and develop a concept report.

You are one of a small number of registered voters in Union and Wallowa counties chosen at random and invited to complete this important survey. Your responses to the questions about the trail, how it might be used, and design considerations will be considered by the WURA board of directors in making a decision whether to go forward with detailed trail planning and possible construction of a trail or trail segments.

The accuracy of any conclusions we make about support for developing a trail or trail segments and its design depends on all opinions being represented. Please ensure your perspective is heard.

The research survey, and each question in it, is voluntary. Your responses will be kept confidential – they will only be reported as part of larger groups. This survey takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

Please consider taking the survey online via the web address below. The online survey saves postage money and your answers are entered directly into the survey response database.

**Please take the survey online via this web address: XXXXXXXXX**

Our analysis will only include people with valid ID numbers, so please enter this number when prompted: **ID** *If you have difficulty accessing the survey online*, please e-mail Tylor Hardwick at [hardwick@eou.edu](mailto:hardwick@eou.edu). The ID number is only for access to the questionnaire and tracking survey returns. It will not be connected to your name, shared with other parties, or connected with the report.

If you prefer to use the enclosed paper survey, please take the survey today and return it in the pre-addressed and postage paid envelopes

Thank you very much for completing this survey. Your input is extremely important!

Sincerely,

Dana Kurtz,  
Student Project Manager

Enclosures

## JOSEPH BRANCH RECREATIONAL TRAIL PLANNING SURVEY



The Wallowa Union Rail Authority (WURA) is studying the feasibility and suitability of constructing a recreational trail within the Joseph Branch Railroad right-of-way between Elgin and Joseph. WURA has partnered with Eastern Oregon University (EOU) and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to study the feasibility of a rail-with-trail and develop a concept report.

Please take the 10 to 15 minutes needed to complete the survey. Your responses to the questions about the trail, how it might be used, and design preferences will be considered by the WURA board of directors in making a decision whether to go forward and develop a detailed trail master plan and possible construction of a trail or trail segments.

The accuracy of any conclusions we make about support for developing a trail or trail segments and its design depends on all opinions being represented. Please ensure your perspective is heard.

The research survey, and each question in it, is voluntary. Your responses will be kept confidential – they will only be reported as part of larger groups.

Dana Kurtz, Student Project Manager

Q-1 Do you own property next to or immediately adjacent to the Wallowa Union Railroad right of way? *(Please check one answer.)*

- Yes *(If yes, please go to Q-3)*  
 No

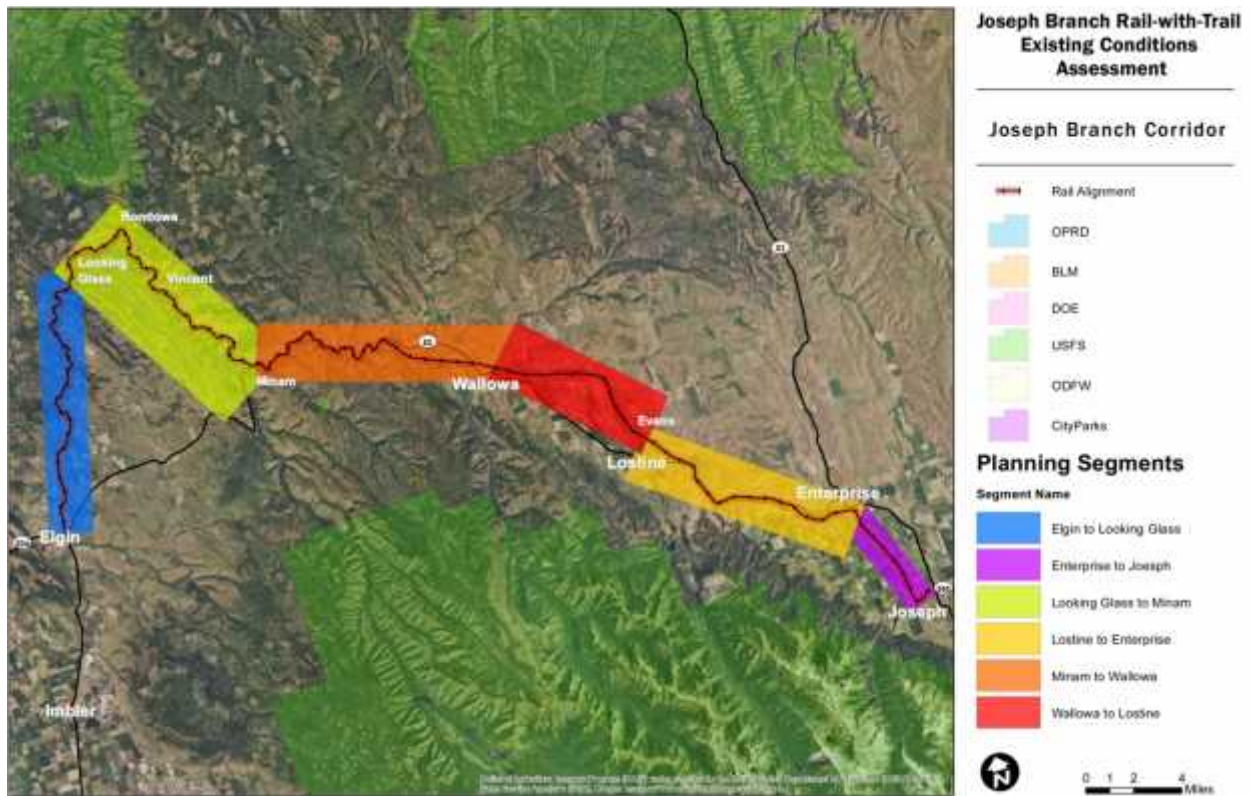
Q-2 If no, approximately how far do you live from the Wallowa Union Railroad corridor? *(Please write the number of miles.)* \_\_\_\_\_ mile(s)

Q-3 Do you oppose or support the development of a recreational trail on the Wallowa Union Railroad line between Elgin and Joseph, Oregon? *(Please check one answer.)*

- Support the trail
- Support certain segments of the trail only
- Oppose the entire trail *(If you oppose the entire trail or have no opinion, please go to*
- No Opinion *to Q-5. )*

Q-4 If you only oppose segments of the trail, please identify your support or opposition for each of the six specific trail segments along the entire railroad line. *(Please circle one number for each trail segment.)*

Trail Segment	Oppose	No Opinion	Support
Elgin to Lookingglass (13.01 miles)	1	2	3
Lookingglass to Minam (13.28 miles)	1	2	3
Minam to Wallowa (12.79 miles)	1	2	3
Wallowa to Lostine (8.14 miles)	1	2	3
Lostine to Enterprise (10.05 miles)	1	2	3
Enterprise to Joseph (5.75 miles)	1	2	3



Q-5 Please identify your perception of problems trail users could cause. (*Please circle one number for each perceived problem.*)

Perceived Problems	Not at all a problem	Minor problem	Moderate problem	Serious problem
Litter	1	2	3	4
Illegal motor vehicle use.	1	2	3	4
Disruptive noise from the trail.	1	2	3	4
Loitering	1	2	3	4
Trespassing on private property.	1	2	3	4
Unleashed and roaming pets.	1	2	3	4
Discourteous, rude users.	1	2	3	4
Dog feces.	1	2	3	4
Loss of privacy.	1	2	3	4
Vandalism	1	2	3	4
Cars parking on private property.	1	2	3	4
Burglary	1	2	3	4
Trail users harass pets on adjacent property	1	2	3	4
Damage to farm crops/livestock.	1	2	3	4
Trail users harass farm animals.	1	2	3	4
Trail users criticize farming practices.	1	2	3	4
Other (write response: _____).	1	2	3	4

Q-6 Do you believe the problem(s) you defined as moderate can be mitigated in trail planning and management by working to address individual landowner's issues? (*Please check one.*)

- Yes  
 No

Q-7 Do you believe the problem(s) you defined as serious can be mitigated in trail planning and management by working to address individual landowner's issues? (*Please check one.*)

- Yes  
 No

Q-8 Will you or members of your household likely use a recreational trail if developed on the Wallowa Union Railroad line between Elgin and Joseph, Oregon? (*Please check one.*)

- Yes  
 No (*If no, please go to Q-13*)

Q-9 How often might you or members of your household likely use each of the specific segments of the Wallowa Union Railroad line trail if it is built? *(Please circle one number or each segment.)*

	Never	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	A Few Times a Year
Elgin to Lookingglass (13.01 miles)	1	2	3	4	5
Lookingglass to Minam (13.28 miles)	1	2	3	4	5
Minam to Wallowa (12.79 miles)	1	2	3	4	5
Wallowa to Lostine (8.14 miles)	1	2	3	4	5
Lostine to Enterprise (10.05 miles)	1	2	3	4	5
Enterprise to Joseph (5.75 miles)	1	2	3	4	5

Q-10 Please check all trail activities that you or members of your household would do on a recreational trail if developed on the Wallowa Union Railroad line between Elgin and Joseph, Oregon (check all that apply)?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Walking   | <input type="checkbox"/> I. Bicycle touring (multi-day rides)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Running/jogging   | <input type="checkbox"/> J. Commute between communities         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C. Long-distance hiking (backpacking)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> K. Meeting place to walk with others   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. Horseback riding  | <input type="checkbox"/> L. Driving a horse-drawn cart or wagon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Walking pets  | <input type="checkbox"/> M. Cross-country skiing when snowy     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F. Bicycling on paved segments                               | <input type="checkbox"/> N. Other (write response: _____).      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G. Mountain biking on unpaved segments                       |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> H. To access the Wallowa and Grande Ronde rivers for fishing |   |

Q-11 From the activities in Question 10 above, what is the ONE primary activity that you would do most often? *(Please write a letter from the list in Q-10 that matches your response).*

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter for primary activity

Q-12. For this primary activity, what is your preferred trail surface type? *(Please check only one box)*

- |  |  |                               |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crushed granite | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodchip                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel          | <input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt                       |                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe) _____ |                               |

Q-13 Please identify how important you feel the following trail amenities would be at trailheads and along the trail at reasonable intervals along the Wallowa Union Railroad line trail. Please circle the number next to each amenity that best represents your opinion.

	Not important	2	No opinion	3	4	Extremely important	5
Restrooms.	1	2	3	4	5		
Trash cans.	1	2	3	4	5		
Drinking water.	1	2	3	4	5		
Trail signs (directional and distance markers, and level of difficulty).	1	2	3	4	5		
Historic/interpretive information.	1	2	3	4	5		
Nature/ wildlife information.	1	2	3	4	5		
Picnic tables.	1	2	3	4	5		
Benches.	1	2	3	4	5		
Shade/ rain shelters.	1	2	3	4	5		
Pet litter bags and dispensers.	1	2	3	4	5		
Parking space at trailheads.	1	2	3	4	5		
Trail maps at trailheads.	1	2	3	4	5		
Posted regulations.	1	2	3	4	5		
Other (write response: _____).	1	2	3	4	5		


Q-14 It is likely the Wallowa Union Railroad line trail would be financed and constructed in segments if built. Please circle one number to reflect your priority for each trail segment construction.

Trail Segment	Priority for trail segment construction			
	1 = not a priority,	2 = slight priority,	3 = moderate priority,	4 = high priority
Elgin to Lookingglass (13.01 miles)	1	2	3	4
Lookingglass to Minam (13.28 miles)	1	2	3	4
Minam to Wallowa (12.79 miles)	1	2	3	4
Wallowa to Lostine (8.14 miles)	1	2	3	4
Lostine to Enterprise (10.05 miles)	1	2	3	4
Enterprise to Joseph (5.75 miles)	1	2	3	4

Q-15 To what extent do you **oppose or support** trail or trail segment construction funding?  
*(Please circle one number for each statement.)*

Types of Funding	Strongly oppose	Oppose	No Opinion	Support	Strongly support
Without voter approved local tax dollars (foundation grants and donations with some state and federal government funds)	1	2	3	4	5
Use all foundation grant funds	1	2	3	4	5
Foundation grants, donations, and <u>voter approved</u> public funding	1	2	3	4	5

Q-16 For each of the potential benefits of a Wallowa Union Railroad line trail, please rate how much you would value the benefit, from least valued to most valued. *(Please circle one number for each potential benefit).*

Potential Benefits	Least valued  Most valued				
Improve physical health and fitness.	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Preserve open space and the environment.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Riverfront access for fishing.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Promote tourism.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Provide access to public lands.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
Make your community a more desirable place to live.	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Enhance a sense of place and community.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Transportation alternatives.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Environmental education opportunities.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Opportunities to stage special events.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
<u>Enhance recreational opportunities.</u>	1	2	3	4	5
Increase property values in your community.	1	2	3	4	5
Provide opportunities for social interaction.	1	2	3	4	5

Q-17 What is your household's zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

Q-18 How old are you? *(Please check one box)*

- |                                      |                                   |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 to 18    | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 to 29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 39 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 49    | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 59 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 to 69 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 70 or older |                                   |                                   |



Q-19 What is your gender? *(Please check one box)*

Female

Male

Q-20 Including yourself, how many persons live in your household in the following age categories?

Age category	Number of people in household in age category
0-17	
18-29	
30-39	
40-49	
50-59	
60-69	
70 or older	

Q-21 What else would you like to tell us about the proposed Wallowa Union Railroad line recreational trail between Elgin and Joseph, Oregon?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Thank you, your input is important! Please return this survey as soon as possible in the preaddressed postage-paid envelope to:

Eastern Oregon University  
One University Boulevard  
Zabel Hall 117  
La Grande, OR 97850