Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail
Workshop 1 Results Summary

P2C ADAMS-WHITMAN
TRAIL FACILITATION REPORT

Introduction

On Tuesday, November 19, approximately 27 persons representing a wide range of user groups, state agencies, municipalities and landowners took part in the first Palouse to Cascades Trail (P2C Trail) facilitation meeting, a workshop held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Rosalia Community Center, 106 W 7th Street.

Following a presentation introducing the project context and scope, participants were asked to work with at least two other attendees in identifying known issues and potential solutions pertaining to the P2C Trail within five areas spanning the entirety of Whitman and Adams county. Each group was provided with a table-sized map of the study area, configured as a worksheet. Following this, each group was asked to consider and identify specific examples (good or bad) of issues noted, including, as possible, mapped comments. Each group was then asked to make a presentation to the entire audience on their findings and recommendations.

The following pages summarize the worksheet notes and presentations made by each of six tables. Copies of all six worksheets are also included. Transcriptions of worksheet notes will be available as part of the report.

Presentation & Worksheet Notes

Table 1

- Rock Creek area needs to be connected, i.e., missing right-of-way and trestle improvements. The section is highly scenic and less remote than other areas, with potential benefits for Malden, Pine City and St. John.

- Many sections of trail need grade issues addressed, providing better ADA compliance and improved access for diverse users and age groups.

- Consider opportunities for "loop" routes and tie-ins for nearby towns, improving tourism and recreational use.

- Consider and develop stronger wayfinding and interpretive sign programs for key portions of the trail.

- Facilities for camping and/or RV use are desperately needed.

Table 2

- Facilities for camping and/or RV use along the trail are needed.

- Bathroom facilities are needed along all sections of the trail.

- Areas for trailheads, including parking, need to be identified and constructed.

- Connections to nearby towns need to be provided, such as an obvious tie-in to downtown Rosalia.

Table 3

- Seek alternative routes for trail that do not bisect farms.

- Water availability is an issue – large sections of the trail have no services, often causing users to seek assistance from local farmers and/or trespassing onto private land for water access. As not all water is potable, liability is a concern.

- Designated camping sites are needed along the way, helping reduce the number of users tempted to camp on private property. Campfires at such locations present enhanced risk for wildfire, and users may source fuel from fenceposts or other material associated with ranch operations.

- Consider seasonal closure of trail when weather presents extreme fire hazard or makes trail impassible (snow).

- Much of land west of Rock Lake is essentially open country, lacking shade of any sort. Provision of same needs consideration, reducing temptation by users to trespass, accessing isolated farms and homes.

- John Wayne Pioneer Riders are seen in positive light, volunteering time and effort to improve trail conditions.

- Poor or non-existent cell coverage necessitates landowner aid or intervention in case of user emergencies.

- Heavy tumbleweed buildup in arid areas west of Rock Lake (often filling grade cuts in hillsides) makes trail sections impassible and presents management challenges. Rail operators typically

performed controlled burns for such accumulations; unsure on how trail managers will address it.

- Areas exist where fencing established during property disputes remains and will need relocation.

- Areas exist where drainage is poor, with seasonal pools and muddy conditions prevalent in spring and fall. These may require extensive work to make functional.

- Weed mitigation remains a significant issue. Ability will and capacity for state to address it is questioned.

- Invasive weed species may be propagated by equestrians feeding their mounts baled hay from elsewhere in state; necessary controls are seen as a significant obstacle.

- Rail operations, while not ideal, included operational requirements specific to fencing and weed abatement that were honored. Trail operators have not been as reliable, compounded by the fact that trail use presents other challenges.

- Rail ownership provided tax revenue that historically helped local communities. Transfer to public ownership erased this direct benefit.

- The missing Cow Creek trestle is an obvious connectivity issue, requiring lengthy detour route or unauthorized trespass.

- Operations and maintenance issues have been prevalent and obvious hurdles for state, landowners remain highly skeptical these can be addressed without fundamental changes in resource allocation, funding.

- Perhaps due to and more typical of remote areas, trail users seem to feel entitled to access and use private property.

- Trail management needs to be a better, more reliable neighbor, coordinating more effectively with ranchers and farmers regarding operational needs, such as moving cattle.

- Where required to manage use conflicts, fencing needs to be complete and well-maintained, including installation of gates and cattle guards.

- Sheer remoteness of many areas of the trail makes operations problematic, including control of non-authorized (motorized) traffic; fire and EMS needs; general policing of existing and/or future facilities for issues such as vandalism, use of trail as corridor for hunting or general trespass, etc.

- Group noted potential for ROW use as lease corridor for underground utilities such as fiber optics, natural gas, electrical power.

- Group noted potential for drone monitoring and patrolling of ROW.

Table 4

- Number one concern is grading and surfacing needs to be dealt with on the trail.

- Suggestion for interpretive kiosk near intersection of P2C Trail and US 395 near Lind.

- Mention of need to address connectivity and gaps, specifically in the Rock Lake area; missing/damaged trestles, tunnel improvements, etc.

- Mention that in places, fencing encroaches onto trail from private property.
- Intersection of P2C Trail and Columbia Plateau Trail is seen as an opportunity site, with adjacent BLM land, potential trailhead mentioned.
- Noted motorized use/trespass in and near Tekoa, damaging already poor surface conditions.
- Noted successful surface and drainage improvements along trail near Rosalia.
- Noted need for directional signage to and from trail from Rosalia; signs informing users of permit requirements, safety issues.
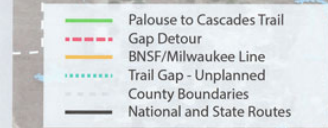
Table 5

- Issues noted relating to joint Parks and DNR management of trail in some areas. Also noted lease agreements unifying management are in the works.
- Active rail in Othello area presents serious issues; current detour is seen as problematic.
- Trail permitting requirements are seen as inconsistent along route, with likelihood for same increasing as localized use patterns grow.
- Noted that 395 underpass is full of brush and/or tumbleweeds.
- Where they intersect the trail, public roads present opportunities for access and activities that should not be associated with legitimate trail users.
- Partnerships, care of adjacent sections with local municipalities seen as a possible approach to trail maintenance.
- Improvements, trailhead opportunity noted at P2C Trail and Columbia Plateau Trail intersection near Paxton.
- Motorized use of trail ROW by adjacent property owners observed/alleged.
- Areas of poor drainage along trail noted, including Paxton underpass area.
- Trail permits issued for agricultural user access noted as beneficial.
- Blocked access to trail near/crossing grain terminal at Ewan noted.
- Increased funding for operations and maintenance seen as essential for future success.
- Spalling / degradation of arch bridge near Rosalia noted.
- Areas noted where adjacent landowners have or are currently:
  - Plowing over or within ROW;
  - Dumping farm materials or waste;
  - Allowing cattle to access and degrade surface conditions within ROW.

Table 6

- John Wayne Trail Riders seen as positive model for user groups; greatly valued in Tekoa.
- Example of volunteer-based maintenance (10-mile section near Tekoa) mentioned as positive model.
- Trail needs active, well-funded and staffed police presence, i.e., trail rangers.

- Need for basic facilities along route noted, i.e., bathrooms, trailhead parking, camping areas.

- Need for active weed control along route noted.

- Group felt priority of investment should be in at-grade trail surface improvements, versus re-decking the trestle in Tekoa.

- Group noted unique aspects on each portion of the trail, including geographic context, logistical issues and forecast user base; this suggests differing treatments, management strategies and priorities for investments along the P2C Trail.

- Many areas along the P2C route should coordinate amenities and management strategies with neighboring towns – leveraging services and operational capacity they may provide.

- Group noted sense of effective operations and trail management along route west of the Columbia River.

Othello

Issues	Ideas / Policies

Examples	

Lind

Issues	Ideas / Policies
	Hitching posts near Lind - Overnight use on city park allowed - Water source - Make sure to address noxious weeds on an annual basis

Examples (Good)	
• New fencing and gate repair near Squaw Canyon to address adjacent owner issues • Test strip w/ ballast scratch off north of Roslin Canyon	This improved the surfacing

Ritzville

Issues	Ideas / Policies
Detour Routes - - Need to Be CLEARLY MARKED - ROCK LAKE - COW CREEK	get County Roads Dept. to work on making Detour Routes Safer and signs, OR ALLOW volunteers or other agencies to Do the JOB

Examples	

Rock Lake

Issues	Ideas / Policies
Need Trailhead w/Short term Parking for - Day Trips especially at short scenic segments (eg: Rosalia Bridges ROCK LAKE HOLE-IN-GROUND EWAN	Rock Lake is a spectacular part of the trail, even as a stub ended "OUT & BACK" section. Parks owns MOST of the R-O-W along Rocklake the private property "gap" is short - although prevents through access along Rocklake

Examples	
Trail users request scrape surface & ballast to hard pack Earth- for Best Surface! Rosalia- Fence to keep trail users off property (Give way to trail)	

Malden to Tekoa

Issues	Ideas / Policies
- Surfacing needs to be improved for better user experience - Look to create "loops" that make day trip connections - Reduce grade in areas of old trestles in Rosalia so kids can do them	Cross-country skiing and other winter sport opportunities - Storytelling, geology, wagon slibes, as ways to talk about local history -Loops off of the P2C

Examples	

Instructions

For many, the Palouse to Cascades Trail (P2C Trail) is an attractive concept. But practical hurdles need to be overcome, ranging from missing trestles and gaps in rights-of-way, to land use conflict and management issues. Recent plans for Adams and Whitman counties (2016) take most issues into account, but this process seeks to check again, affirming or updating expected issues and seeking practical solutions, maximizing the P2C Trail's potential while minimizing negative impacts. For each of the five trail sections on this map, this exercise asks your group to do three things:

1. Discuss and list known or expected ISSUES the trail will need to overcome, including those related to trail operations and management.
2. Discuss and list IDEAS or policies, particularly those addressing the issues you listed in step one. What can the state do to minimize problems, and/or make the P2C Trail function at its very best?
3. Discuss and list EXAMPLES of the issues or ideas you've developed in steps one and two, adding arrows or note on the map where those conditions apply – or examples that might exist elsewhere, helping us develop case-study information for the report.

Please draw on and mark up the maps, add notes and comments to help explain your thinking! We'll ask each group to present their findings at the end of the session, but we need everyone's ideas to make this meeting a success. Help optimize the P2C Trail for Adams and Whitman County!

Issues | Ideas / Policies | Examples (repeated across five panels)

Othello | Lind | Ritzville | Rock Lake | Malden to Tekoa

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Legend:
- Palouse to Cascades Trail
- Gap Detour
- BNSF/Milwaukee Line
- Trail Gap - Unplanned
- County Boundaries
- National and State Routes

Othello | **Lind** | **Ritzville** | **Rock Lake** | **Malden to Tekoa**

Issues — Ideas / Policies (×5 panels)
Examples (×5 panels)

Othello panel — Issues:
Active Railroad ??
Hunting Season Roads

Ritzville panel — Issues:
No Services
No Water.
No Cell
No Shade
Fire/Access

SEASONAL Closure
Fire Season

Rock Lake panel — Issues:
No Water
Accountable Access
(Trail Property/Fire)
Trespass
Stream Crossing (Road)
Vandalism (Trail/Bridge)
Gate Access/Trail Maint.

Rock Lake panel — Ideas / Policies:
Fencing
Closing
Weed Control
Own $
Reliable Partner

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Palouse to Cascades Trail
Gap Detour
BNSF/Milwaukee Line
Trail Gap - Unplanned
County Boundaries
National and State Routes

N

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

Issues | Ideas / Policies

Issues | Ideas / Policies

Issues | Ideas / Policies
Detour - cow creek trestle

Issues | Ideas / Policies

Issues | Ideas / Policies
Trespass
Motorcade use starting in Tekoa (degrading surface)
surface is poor

Examples

Examples

Examples
Connection between columbia-Malou Trail + P2C

Examples
easement gap to close gap   Improve Trails

Interpretive kiosks

Replace cow decklar cow trestle

Fence encroachment on edge of trail

Rough surface

Improve trestle/trailhead area

Examples
Successful surface/drainage improvement
All trailheads/parking
Improve directional wayfinding + signage

Legend
- Palouse to Cascades Trail (green)
- Gap Detour (red dashed)
- BNSF/Milwaukee Line (orange)
- Trail Gap - Unplanned (green dashed)
- County Boundaries (dashed)
- National and State Routes (black)

N

0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles

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Othello | Lind | Ritzville | Rock Lake | Malden to Tekoa

P2C ADAMS-WHITMAN TRAIL FACILITATION REPORT

Issues + Ideas Workshop
Exercise 1 - November 2019

Issues | **Ideas / Policies**

Split mgmt between DNR & Parks

STATUS OF ACTIVE TRAIL – ADEQUATE DETOUR

INCONSISTENT TRAIL PERMIT REQUIREMENT

Currently working on base that will unify mgmt under Parks

Examples

Issues | **Ideas / Policies**

Examples

Issues | **Ideas / Policies**

Examples

Issues | **Ideas / Policies**

Examples

Issues | **Ideas / Policies**

Examples

Lincoln County

Spokane County

Grant County

Adams County

Potholes Reservoir

Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

Whitman County

Franklin County

Garfield County

Columbia County

Legend
- Palouse to Cascades Trail
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| Othello | Lind | Ritzville | Rock Lake | Malden to Tekoa |

P2C ADAMS-WHITMAN TRAIL FACILITATION REPORT

Issues + Ideas Workshop
Exercise 1 - November 2019

Issues | **Ideas / Policies**

Examples

Handwritten notes (Ritzville section, upside down): Rosalia - Tekoa · Camp/RV Trail · end of... · What about housing... formal transition ... UTP-RR ⊗ ... pieces #4 spring ... Restrooms #4 spring ... Ranger-Police ... Sheriff - hope this is an issue (Brandon) ... Maintenance on trail (volunteers) ... John Wayne Trail ... good trail manager

Examples (Ritzville): Parking available at each place the road crosses the trail. Vault toilets at each parking. Managed well — west of Columbia River

Examples (Rock Lake): Thorp trail weed management done by adjacent land owner. Signage into services/town

Lincoln County
Spokane County
Grant County
Adams County
Franklin County
Whitman County
Columbia County
Garfield County

Legend
— Palouse to Cascades Trail
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Othello | **Lind** | **Ritzville** | **Rock Lake** | **Malden to Tekoa**

Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail
Workshop 2 Results Summary

Introduction

On Thursday, December 19, approximately 20 persons representing a wide range of user groups, state agencies, municipalities and landowners took part in the second Palouse to Cascades Trail (P2C Trail) facilitation meeting, a workshop held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Lind Community Church, 106 W 7th Street.

Following a presentation introducing the project scope and results from the first workshop on November 19, participants were asked to work with at least two other attendees in reviewing and refining a list of issues associated with the P2C Trail developed to date. For this first exercise, each group was provided with a table-sized list of issues and a map of the study area. Each group then was asked to consider second table-sized worksheet containing potential strategies for trail funding and operations, arranged for review in three main activities:

- Resources & Funding – Identifying viable funding sources, with participants asked to assign a percentage figure to each of their line items for improvements and ongoing operations.

- Improvements – This activity listed specific or categorical improvements needed in the study area, and participants were asked to rank each as a "short," "medium" or a "long-term" priority for the trail in Adams and Whitman counties.

- Operations – This activity presented a list of planning, management and operational work likely associated with trail development, with groups asked to assign a "low," "medium" or "high" priority to each activity, followed by work to identify whether those activities would be best as led by the state, or by a partnership of both state and local entities.

Upon completion, each group made presentations on their findings to the entire audience and event organizers.

The following pages summarize the worksheet notes and presentations made by each of the groups. All worksheets were scanned, transcribed and made available for download on the project website.

Exercise 1

This small-group exercise asked participants to review and refine P2C Trail needs, issues, opportunities and threats in Adams and Whitman counties, using a draft list of these topics generated from prior interviews and the first workshop.

The following table provides the worksheet listing of items, broken down as "Needs," "Issues & Threats," "Opportunities," and "Positive Examples." Comments written by participants associated with each section are transcribed and provided at the bottom of each column.

Worksheet Listings			
Needs	**Issues & Threats**	**Opportunities**	**Positive Examples**
Facility Needs	Fire hazards, control	Local connections:	Successful surface/ drainage work near Rosalia
Surfacing and grading for:	Trespassing, malicious	• Towns as localized "anchors"	
• Accessibility needs	Trespassing, benign	• Town partnerships	John Wayne Trail Riders Association
• Drainage issues	Landowner encroachment	• Landowner partnerships	
Close gaps and detours at:	Poorly-understood standards of conduct, users	• Group/ association partnerships	New fencing and gate repair near Squaw Canyon, addressing owner issues
• Rock Lake	Motorized use	Interpretive features that educate, tell about:	Test strip w/ballast graded off north of Rosalia - this improved the surfacing
• Cow Creek	Unauthorized hunting	• Geographic contexts, stories	
• Othello	Differing user types, needs and management:	• Land use contexts, stories	
Provide potable water	• Localized or day users	• Historic and cultural contexts, stories	
Wayfinding and interpretive signs	• Mid-distance or full-route ("epic") users	Seasonal opportunities for:	
Create trailheads		• Cross-country skiing	
Add parking		• Harvest tours	
Add camping, RV facilities		• Eco-tours, wetland/ BLM land tours	
Provide restrooms		Frame geographic contexts:	
Service Needs		• Palouse country	
Improved cell coverage		• Channeled scabland environment	
Emergency services:		• Pothole lakes environment	
• EMS		Create day trip/ loop routes	
• Fire		Highlight intersection with Columbia Plateau Trail	
• Police		Consider seasonal use restrictions	
Management Needs		Commission "Trail Rangers"	
Maintenance, including:			
• Weed control			
• Fencing			
• Tumbleweeds			
• Snow			
• Gates			
Neighbor relationships:			
• Reliability			

		Drone monitoring/ policing opportunities	
• Regular communication • Local points-of-contact Trail-specific policing		Negotiate alternate routes (per-case basis) Funding opportunities via utility leases Guided tour opportunities (vendors or?)	

Worksheet Comments

Needs	Issues & Threats	Opportunities	Positive Examples
"Better communication of trail conditions along the way." *"Trace-ability of actual number of users."* *"20 miles between basic services, bathroom and potable H2O."* *"Actually take O&M budget seriously."* *"Vegetation management."* *"Good fences make good neighbors."* *"State collaboration, possibility to cooperate re: broadband to communities."* *"Keep railroad corridor."* *(Fencing) Priority: Mitigation, to respect adjacent land owners."* *"Economic development analysis: A) For trail B) For communities."*	*"Seasonal closures until trail is ready to use."* *"More rangers/parks presence."* *"Parks (should) be held to better stewardship practices."* *"Better education, trail etiquette, expectations on trail."* *"Types of users: 1) B & B 2) Travel and campers 3) Light recreational users."* *"Road crossing is where issues of conflict (dumping) arise."* *"Protect short-line rail operation at Othello."* *"Othello region (should) develop trail along/adjacent to Othello railroad without interfering with shipping of commodities."*	*"Tax money (should) flow to local services."* *"Kiosks."* *"Ice Age Floods group."*	*"Volunteers aren't the answer, but incentivize groups who actually work to help the trail."* *"Positive sales revenue, Lind to Ritzville, Ralston Grange."* *"Washtucna's B & B."*

Exercise 1 Results Summary

Participant reviews seemed to affirm that the draft list of needs, issues, threats, opportunities and examples was generally complete. Comments underscored several key matters including:

- The need for trail operators to attend to the basics, including fencing, weed control, policing, marketing and management;

- The need to foster relationships with adjacent landowners and municipalities, supporting ongoing operations as well as potential partnerships.

- Interest and support for lease arrangements with utilities or other, non-intrusive users of the ROW remains high.

- The trail is and will remain a very different type of recreational facility than most state parks, requiring a highly diverse and context-specific approach to operations, public relations, feature sets and programming.

In addition, strong support was expressed that the short-line rail operation at Othello remain operational and viable, given significant economic benefits already being realized (with potential for more). Support also emerged for detailed economic studies, helping gain and/or meter levels of investment for the trail, and aiding the state with implementation strategies.

Exercise 2

As detailed on page one, the second workshop exercise asked groups to consider potential strategies for trail funding and operations, arranged for review in three main activities. The following lists results in table and chart format, with summary notes on all three at the conclusion of the section.

Exercise 2.1

The first portion of Exercise 2 (Exercise 2.1) listed ideas for funding the trail and its operations., asking the groups to assign an ideal percentage figure to each line item for trail improvements, and in a second column, for operations. The following table lists results with associated comments provided in a fourth column; for those tables that completed the exercise, results are expressed as percentage averages, including pie charts following the table.

Exercise 2.1: Resources & Funding			
Source	Improvements	Operations	Comments
General tax revenue (statewide)	33.9%	27.8%	*"State Parks' general revenue."* *"State Parks and utilities should foot most of the bill for the trail."* *"State (Parks) accepts responsibility of trail, but is open to partnerships with other entities."*
Utility lease arrangements	12.2%	22.8%	*"Trail could greatly benefit from fiber/utility/gas partnership."*
Trail user and tour vendor fees	13.9%	15.0%	*"Not in favor of trail user fee."* *"Commercial component OK for vendor fees."* *"Trail users can help fund the trail by buying permits."*
ROW sale proceeds (outright or easement, agricultural or developer)	3.3%	0.0%	
ROW lease proceeds (agricultural or developer)	0.0%	3.3%	
State and federal grants (recreation and/or transportation)	12.2%	5.0%	

Sponsorships:			
County	0.8%	1.7%	*"In-kind."*
Municipal	0.0%	0.0%	*"Municipalities in this region are already struggling enough and shouldn't be responsible for trail cost."*
Private associations	13.9%	17.8%	*"Trail Advocates-Maintenance. Also: REI, Patagonia, RTC, Paul Allen, Rail-To-Trails Conservancy."*
State or county taxing district	0.0%	3.3%	
Private donations	8.9%	3.3%	
Other *(write in)*	0.8%	0.0%	*"Crowd Sourcing."* *"Trail should be built by those who will benefit from it."* *"Share the cost burden."*

AVERAGES FOR FUNDING SOURCES FOR IMPROVEMENTS

- Other 1%
- Private donations 9%
- Private association Sponsorship 14%
- County Sponsorships 1%
- State and federal grants (recreation and/or transportation) 12%
- ROW sale proceeds (outright or easement, agricultural, or developer) 3%
- General tax revenue (statewide) 34%
- Utility lease arrangements 12%
- Trail user and tour vendor fees 14%
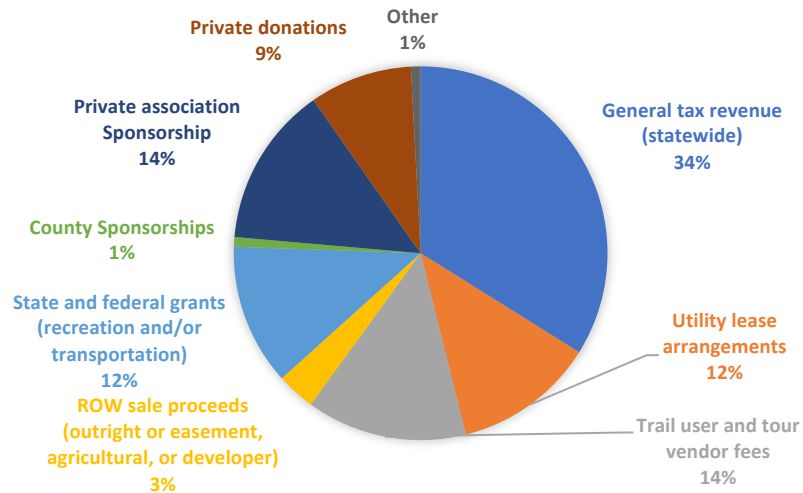
AVERAGES FOR FUNDING SOURCES FOR OPERATIONS

State or county taxing district
3%

Private donations
3%

Private association Sponsorship
18%

General tax revenue (statewide)
28%

County Sponsorships
2%

State and federal grants (recreation and/or transportation)
5%

ROW lease proceeds (agricultural or developer)
3%

Trail user and tour vendor fees
15%

Utility lease arrangements
23%
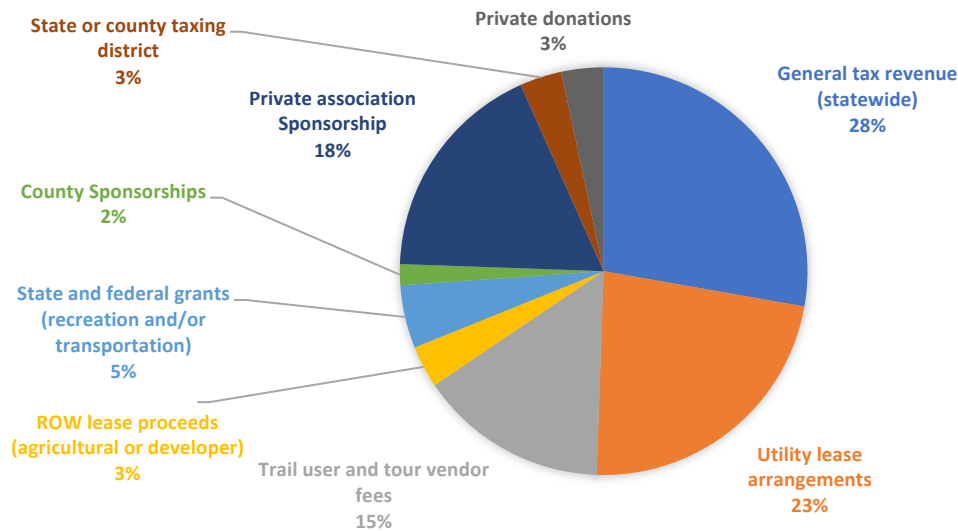
Exercise 2.2

This activity asked participants to review a draft list of improvements associated with the P2C Trail, identifying each as a short-term (S), a medium-term (M), or a long-term priority (L). The following table lists the improvements and number of table groups that identified them by the named categories. Table cells highlighted in green indicate three or more groups selected the associated priority; those cells in yellow indicate two groups selected that priority, and non-highlighted cells receiving one or zero votes.

Exercise 2.2: Improvements				
Improvements	S	M	L	Comments/Reasoning
Trail surfacing and grading, near towns	3	0	0	*"Faster ROI."* *"Paving and providing facilities near towns is a priority."*
Trail surfacing and grading, rural areas	0	1	2	
Provision of basic services, near towns	2	1	0	
Provision of basic services, rural areas	0	2	2	
Major gap closure, including land acquisition or easements, trestle improvements, crossing issues for the following:				
Rock Lake	1	0	2	
Cow Creek	0	1	3	
Othello	0	0	2	*"Don't jeopardize what is already working like the active rail line near Othello, which is an important piece of Othello's economy. Instead, acquire ROW that detours around this section, potentially rerouting the trail through the nearby wildlife refuge – another possible partner?"*
Wayfinding and interpretive signs, near towns	3	0	0	

Wayfinding and interpretive signs, rural areas	1	2	0			
Trailhead creation, near towns	2	0	1			
Trailhead creation, rural areas	0	2	1			
Localized route development (loop trails, town access)	2	1	0			
Fencing installation, repair (including gates)	3	0	0	*"Should have been done a long time ago!"* *"Overdue."* *"Fence the trail first, using the available funds for fencing where needed, then worry about trail improvements. Once trail is fenced, issues with trespassing and improper trail use will subside, helping get more public buy-in."*		
Bridge repair, Rosalia	1	1	1			
Detour enhancements	1	1	1			
Other *(write in)*	0	0	0			

Exercise 2.3

The final part of Exercise 2 asked participants to review a draft list of operational activities associated with the P2C Trail, assigning each a "low," "medium" or "high" priority, followed by work to identify whether those activities would be best as led by the state ("S"), or via partnerships with local groups and agencies ("S&P"). The following table provides counts of group voting on each category. As before, table cells highlighted in green indicate three or more groups selected the associated priority; yellow cells indicate two groups selected that priority, and non-highlighted cells showing one or zero votes.

Exercise 2.3: Operations						
Operations	**L**	**M**	**H**	**S**	**S&P**	**Comments/Reasoning**
General facility maintenance	0	0	4	1	1	
Trail patrols, policing	0	1	3	2		
Weed control	0	0	4	0	2	*"Counties have different priorities for weed control. Adams County, for example, funds weed control efforts much more than Whitman County."*
Fence and gate maintenance	0	0	4	2	0	
Emergency Service coordination	0	2	1	0	2	
Trail clearing	0	2	1	0	2	
Local representation, outreach	0	1	2	0	2	
Statewide master plan updates	1	1	1	2	0	*"Enough planning already, pick a plan and stick with it."*
Localized "subarea" plans, updates	0	2	1	1	1	

Economic Development plans	0	2	1		2	
Marketing and promotion	1	2	0	0	2	
Other *(write in)*	0	0	0	0	0	

Exercise 2 Results Summaries

Exercise 2.1 – This exercise helped illuminate participants' preferred approach to funding trail improvements and operations, shedding light on practical approaches the state may undertake as it pursues trail development. At least as advised by attendees, trail proponents should embrace a wide variety of funding sources, roughly deriving just 31% (average of improvements and operations) of all costs from Washington State Parks budget (listed as "General tax revenue" on worksheets). Participants expressed strong expectations for utility lease arrangements as a funding source (17.5% average of improvements and operations), funds from private associations (15.1% average) and user fees (14.5% average). Participants expressed far lower expectations for direct county contributions (1.3% average), lease, trade or outright sale of rights-of-way (1.7% average), or municipal contributions (0.0% average). One group suggested crowdsourcing as a way of covering costs for improvements, albeit playing a minor role (0.8%).

Exercise 2.2 – This activity affirmed several trail considerations, including higher priority given to trail improvements in areas near towns and cities over more rural sections of trail, specifically as relates to:

- Trail surfacing;
- Wayfinding and interpretive signs;
- Trailhead creation;
- Localized route development (including loop trails and town access).

The activity also confirmed:

- Strong support for short-term (if not immediate) repair or installation of fencing along the entire route, including gates;
- Expectations that access across Cow Creek may be a long-term priority.

Exercise 2.3 – This final activity, addressing operational needs, suggested the following are considered key priorities:

- General facility maintenance;
- Reliable trail patrols and policing;
- Fence and gate maintenance;
- Local representation and outreach.

Participants seemed to advise that the following be carried out by the state in a primary role:

- Trail patrols/policing;
- Fence and gate maintenance;
- Master plan updates.

Participants seemed to advise that the following be carried out using state and local group/agency partnerships:

- Weed control;
- Emergency service coordination (EMS);

- Trail clearing;
- Local outreach;
- Economic development planning;
- Marketing and promotion.

Introduction

On Thursday, January 9, approximately 30 persons representing a wide range of user groups, state agencies, municipalities and landowners took part in the third and last Palouse to Cascades Trail (P2C Trail) facilitation meeting, an open house event held from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, 109 East 1st Avenue in Ritzville.

Following a presentation introducing the results from the two workshops on November 19 and December 19, attendees were asked to review a total of 25 draft recommendations, grouped by category on three table-sized comment sheets. Recommendation groupings were:

A. Funding & Planning Recommendations – Ranging from funding diversity to fiscal analyses and detailed planning efforts.

B. Improvement Recommendations – Including location-sensitive implementation steps, uniform updates to essential features and activities, gap closures and/or detour improvements, and safety-related repairs.

C. Operational Recommendations – Including the creation of local partnerships, improved policing, EMS and fire response improvements, user education and general marketing.

In addition to recommendation listings, each comment sheet provided columns to help gauge levels of support, and to gain insights on how the recommendations might be improved. While most, if not all attendees reviewed draft recommendations, many did not utilize the worksheets, instead relaying their thoughts to Commerce staff or meeting facilitators. Worksheets also included a column indicating whether each listing was generally derived from:

*   2016 CAMP policy;

*   2016 CAMP policy, revised or modified;

*   New policy generated from the P2C process;

*   Derived from or consistent with findings from the P2C process' best practices research.

All draft recommendations are included in this summary as they appeared on the actual comment sheets. Scans of the completed worksheets, including transcriptions of written notes, was posted on the project website at:

www.p2c-trailreport.com

Comments Summary

A. Funding & Planning Recommendations

Participants expressed general support for the range of recommendations in this category, particularly for items promoting funding source diversity and a focus on localized planning. Additional notes from this section include:

- Some expressed doubts that user fees could become a reliable means of trail funding, citing the current lack of such fees west of the Columbia, coupled with the effect such fees might have on user numbers, and trade-offs associated with enforcement versus probable income.

- Comments regarding proposed economic and fiscal analyses seemed to affirm the need for such work to inform trail development, with some expressing doubt and others expressing confidence regarding the trail's costs and potential value.

- Notes suggesting a new recommendation were made on this sheet regarding development of an alternate route, bypassing the trail right-of-way between Beverly and the current route's intersection with the Columbia Plateau Trail near Paxton. This concept, as expressed, would create a detour following Highway 243 and Highway 24 from the Beverly bridge to Richland and Pasco, then proceeding along the Columbia Plateau Trail north along the Snake River to Devil's Canyon, Kahlotus, Washtucna, Benge and Paxton, where it would rejoin the Palouse to Cascades Trail going east. Given the scope of such a proposal in context of this project's scope, exploring this concept may have merit in future work, perhaps associated with recommendation B.6, which suggests work to "…identify new detours in response to Ag or operational needs."

- The need to "address liability issues" was listed on this worksheet, suggesting some landowners remain concerned that trespasser or trail user actions might expose them to legal action. Others noted state law already provides coverage for such matters.

In addition, strong support was expressed that the short-line rail operation at Othello remain operational and viable, given significant economic benefits already being realized (with potential for more). Support also emerged for detailed economic studies, helping gain and/or meter levels of investment for the trail, and aiding the state with implementation strategies.

B. Improvement Recommendations

Participants expressed stronger support for the range of recommendations provided in this category, covering prioritization of improvements near urbanized areas, immediate addressing of fencing needs and weed control, and treatment of issues related to public safety. Recommendations that proved more controversial included:

- Recommendation B.7, which suggested basic services such as water, food, restrooms and camping options be provided with greater frequency than at present, helping abate issues of trespass cited by landowners. Responses seem to suggest that the frequency of such services recommended in the 2016 CAMP (eight to 10 miles, typically) might be excessive.

- Recommendation B.9, which urges a solution to the missing trestle and resulting detour at Cow Creek. Though the worksheet text included mention of that landowner's interest in creating a much shorter detour allowing users to descend to the creek basin and cross without reconstruction of the rail-grade trestle, it wasn't clear if opposition to this recommendation reflected this knowledge.

C. Operational Recommendations

Participants expressed near-unanimous support for the range of recommendations provided in this category, covering creation of local partnerships and work with landowners, locally-adaptive management of the trail, measures to improve patrols and policing of the right-of-way, and development of user guides and educational materials.

Recommendation C.8, which suggests measures to make user permits easier to get, was less popular on the worksheets, though written comments were generally supportive, with some citing the need for better and more current data on users to inform trail managers, and others suggesting that pre-registration or permits might best be removed entirely, as generally exists west of the Columbia.

Table A – Funding & Planning Recommendations

Idea	Description	Source
1. Develop a wide range of funding sources	*Tapping a variety of resources may create a deeper, more sustainable pool for trail improvements and operations. While State Parks may remain a major contributor, additional funding could be acquired through utility lease agreements, trail user fees, taxing districts, private sponsorships and grants. This recommendation urges additional research be done to configure and implement a wide range of funding resources.*	NEW BP
2. Facilitate in-kind contributions	*Community engagement helps build local support and makes projects more likely to win grant funding. This recommendation urges development of an in-kind program fostering local partnerships, volunteer effort, donation of proceeds from fundraisers, donated materials and labor, and other activities that may support trail improvement, maintenance, and management.*	NEW BP
3. Conduct an economic analysis	*If the trail itself does not generate the revenue to support operations, it may still have significant value if it stimulates small-town economies nearby. An economic impact analysis will shed light on this, helping inform investment and operational decisions for the trail.*	NEW BP
4. Conduct a fiscal analysis	*Trail development is not cheap. One of the concerns surrounding trail development is that there will not be a significant return on investment from new trail improvements. A fiscal analysis would help quantify expected costs of the trail, comparing it to potential revenue for trail operations.*	NEW
5. Update the 2016 plan (CAMP)	*The 2016 plan may benefit from updates, incorporating findings from this effort and re-framing it in ways that clearly express things like project phasing and findings from subsequent studies. Are current plans for the trail clear and compelling? This recommendation would urge periodic updates.*	NEW
6. Develop localized plans	*Much of what we've heard suggests work for the trail proceed in phases, organized to capture local energies, opportunities and needs. We've also heard that trail features and design might differ area to area – so this recommendation suggests that as work on the trail moves forward, localized plans be developed to reflect localized needs and conditions.*	NEW BP

Key: 16 = 2016 CAMP plan policy; 16+ = 2016 CAMP plan policy, revised; NEW = New policy from P2C Report process; BP = Consistent with best practices research

Table B – Improvement Recommendations

Idea	Description	Source

1.	Prioritize improvements near towns and cities	*The Adams and Whitman portion of the P2C Trail is extensive, and will take time to develop. But many advocates hope for improvements sooner than later, helping build small-town economies. This recommendation urges improvements be prioritized accordingly, supporting local needs and hopes – and helping alleviate pressure for change in more remote areas.*	NEW BP
2.	Allow primitive trail conditions in remote areas	*Participants note that some of the trail's most remote areas are unlikely to serve large numbers anytime soon. This recommendation (related to item B.1 above) suggests minimal surface improvements for highly remote areas, concentrating investment in areas where services are more readily available, and where folks are most likely to use the trail.*	16+
3.	Prioritize and maintain fencing	*Fencing isn't a "sexy" project for trail advocates, but it's one of the top priorities for landowners, and ranks high in our best practices research. State Parks has begun installing fencing in some areas, but this recommendation urges quick completion of the work, helping reduce issues along the entire Adams-Whitman route.*	16 BP
4.	Fund and manage weed control	*Addressing noxious weeds along the right-of-way is seen as critical, since invasive weeds can spread onto farms and harm crop production. This recommendation affirms the need for well-funded, proper weed management, including work to ensure use of "certified hay" by equestrians.*	16 BP
5.	Address Othello gap	*A stretch of the former right-of-way is still an active rail line, and is an important factor in the Othello area economy. This recommendation urges alternative routes be explored, including potential passage through the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, where a potential partnership may be of mutual benefit.*	16+
6.	Create options and improve detours	*For places where gaps or primitive conditions will remain for a long time, this recommendation urges work to improve the user experience along road or highway detours. These might include new separate but parallel paths, widened shoulders, traffic calming, wayfinding and interpretive signs, and user services. Such efforts might also identify new detours in response to Ag or ranch operational needs.*	16+
7.	Provide the basics, everywhere	*Participants noted the need for basic services such as water, food, restrooms, and camping/lodging along many portions of the trail. The 2016 CAMP, acknowledges this, suggesting basic services be located approximately every eight to 10 miles. This recommendation suggests this become a priority, helping reduce trespass and the need for users to seek help from adjacent landowners.*	16+ BP
8.	Shore up safety	*Some trail sections have deteriorating infrastructure, and present safety concerns for users and non-users alike. The Tekoa trestle and the Rosalia bridge are two examples, with the trestle project ID'ed for funding but not the Rosalia bridge. This recommendation urges prioritized funding to ensure basic user safety along all sections of the trail, and to preserve key features over time.*	16+ BP
9.	Address Cow Creek crossing	*Landowners at the Cow Creek crossing have expressed a willingness to develop a workable trail connection in this area. While the design might not remain in the state's right-of-way, the potential for a land swap or lease agreement appears strong. This recommendation urges quick action on the Cow Creek opportunity.*	16+

Idea	Description	Source
10. Address Rock Lake alignment	*Though Rock Lake is one of the most attractive sections of the old right-of-way, there's currently is no legal access to it. This recommendation urges ongoing outreach, coupled with the creation of a clear, convenient and easy-to-follow detour with signs guiding users away from the privately owned section. Further efforts should also be made to educate trail users about the legality of riding on the Rock Lake section.*	16+

Key: 16 = 2016 CAMP plan policy; 16+ = 2016 CAMP plan policy, revised; NEW = New policy from P2C Report process; BP = Consistent with best practices research

Table C – Improvement Recommendations

Idea	Description	Source
1. Coordinate with landowners	*Though daunting (more than 2,000 neighbors along the trail's alignment!), this recommendation urges the state to maintain good-neighbor relationships with all of them. However achieved, operators must deliver on promises and coordinate every aspect of growth and operations with locals. Such relationships are also more likely to evolve as partnerships, helping minimize conflict and optimize outcomes.*	16+ BP
2. Seek partnerships	*Just as trail development is best funded by a diverse range of sources, it will also benefit from a range of partners and stakeholders. Because the trail may benefit multiple agencies, including the counties and towns it passes through, trail promoters should look to these and others as potential partners, streamlining trail progress and uncovering improvement and operational opportunities.*	16+ BP
3. Adaptive management approaches	*The P2C Trail may be envisioned as a contiguous park, but the reality is that it passes through a highly diverse region, with each mile presenting its own opportunities and challenges. Centralized management may be necessary, but it shouldn't override localized understanding and adaptive management. This recommendation urges the state to treat the trail as a unique feature, requiring a unique approach to development and operations.*	NEW BP
4. Establish an emergency response system	*Participants frequently mentioned the need for improved emergency response along the trail. This recommendation would urge consideration of things including post markers for improved EMS response, improved cellular networking, streamlined gate access, and criteria for trail closure during unsafe conditions.*	NEW BP
5. Develop educational features and programs	*This recommendation highlights the need to showcase the wonders of the region, including the unique Palouse, channeled scabland and pothole lake areas the trail passes through. Such efforts could help frame and greatly enhance the user experience, leaving visitors with a deep appreciation for the area's geography, its history, its people and the various ways the land sustains them.*	16+ BP
6. Police and monitor	*This recommendation urges development of an immediate and sustainable means for trail monitoring, perhaps utilizing a volunteer group of trail rangers, oversight by adjacent landowners and communities, or other means. It also recommends more official systems be established, ranging from periodic sweeps and spot checks to maintaining reliable points-of-contact for emergency needs.*	NEW BP

7.	Single-source, streamlined information	*Over the years, the P2C Trail has been the subject of dozens of reports and plans, and given its scope, it makes sense that things are complex. But finding answers shouldn't be arduous. The public needs a single point for information, ranging from details for user access or conditions, to advocacy data, to local access regarding progress on plans, operational alerts and much, much more.*	NEW BP
8.	Streamline user permitting	*This recommendation urges making trail permits easier to get, while ensuring users are well-informed and equipped to enjoy the trail. With a clear path to attaining a permit, users will be more likely comply, providing trail managers with more information about how and when the trail is being used and by whom for what type of use.*	16+
9.	Develop a marketing and user guide program	*This recommendation would develop ways to properly market the trail, enhancing economic returns and educating the public on how, where and when to best access and use the resource. This might include development of trail user guides for distribution by communities along the way or anywhere else the trail is advertised.*	NEW BP

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