

MOLALLA RIVER OPEN HOUSE

October 7th – Comments Received

Bureau of Land Management, Salem District

Below is a list of comments received during an open house public meeting held at the Molalla Public Library on October 7th, 2008. Comments, concerns and suggestions were grouped into major categories. Comments are only listed and not weighted or counted (i.e. if a comment was received several times it was only listed once). Where possible, comments were taken directly without paraphrasing or modification.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

- Avoid hunting restrictions during legal seasons
- Post hunting information at kiosks
- Cell tower in corridor for communication needs
- Continue host program
- Increase restroom facilities
- Need to address ATV use after hours: lights on, cross-country, travel around barriers
- Provide temporary restrooms for busy weekends
- Take out gates →N. side of TRW, Camp Creek Rd
- Continue to keep roads open
- Continue level of road maintenance in Corridor
- Where do current plans for Oregon LNG and Palomar pipelines fall in relation to Molalla Corridor? Will construction of these pipelines impede on the corridor?
- Corridor needs to be maintained in a primitive condition
- Corridor is a good resource for local equestrians, hikers and bikers
- The host program has been successful

- What other planning projects or efforts are currently underway that would affect the Corridor?
- What opportunities exist for synergy with state, county or USFS on larger scale recreation plans?
- Will any changes be made to the recreational use status quo? Will some current uses not be allowed?
- What opportunities for public engagement exist to be involved in planning? How will information be communicated with the public to make sure they have information to participate?
- A future open house should be held in the Portland area, where many users are coming from
- Illegal use of ATV's is damaging the Corridor
- Recreation Corridor should be kept out of timber harvest base (no harvesting in the trail system)
- Support for Wild and Scenic River Designation → would draw attention to the river and increase federal funding
- The Corridor is a small area servicing a large population, leading to possible conflict
- Open up the Aquila Vista area to public use
- People have been opposed to bus tours in the past

ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT/RESTORATION

- Prioritize restoration projects prior to recreation development
- Identify restoration projects and hold special events to implement
- DEQ→incorporate restoration planning where possible (riparian, road decommissioning, protection of sensitive areas)

MANAGEMENT OF OVERNIGHT USE

- Build horse camp in corridor (up corridor from Hardy Creek; increasing connectivity with TRW)

- Eliminate designated dispersed campsites along river → related to water quality issues, dumping
- Look at developing overnight camping opportunities
- Pine Creek bridge as a good spot for possible campground (central location, minimal grading and vegetation removal required)
- Like to retain primitive campground, provide some RV sites
- Look at focusing camping in one location to minimize damage
- Dispersed camping lends itself to pollution problems, partying, poor emergency response and communication
- Need for a monitored and controlled camping area
- A central, primitive campground needs to be created (pit toilet, water, fire pits, gravel sites)
- Close current riverside campsites to overnight use, but keep open for day use (provide garbage cans and toilets at these locations)
- Corridor offers excellent camping opportunities
- Look at area between and opposite Gawley and Horse creeks for possible hiking and tent-only camping area
- A developed campground would minimize erosion and garbage along the river
- Eliminate campsite at Party Rock; staff host at location Thursday through Monday

RIVER RECREATION (BOATING, ETC)

- Freyer Park Bridge install flow gauge for safety
- Limit commercial permits for boaters on the Molalla
- Develop improved boater access points
- Kayaking and rafting has seen an increase over last 7 years
- Safety concerns at certain put-ins → need to make visitors aware of safer access points

TRAILS

- Opportunities for long distance trails near Molalla River or tributaries
- Re-route South Rim Trail to avoid “Big Dip”
- Examine opportunities for river-based trails
- Some river-based trails may need to cross the road → post signs to ensure safety)
- Keep TRW trailhead below landslide (stability issues with road failure)
- Provide trail connectivity between shared use system and wilderness
- Keep trails info at trailheads
- Re-open trail from Macbeth CG to Gawley Creek/Horse Creek Rd →are there logging plans in the future that may affect these areas?
- Extend trail system south to Aquila Vista to provide connection via singletrack
- Quarry Creek to Gawley Creek→5 mile trail past Hardy Creek
- Trails specific for horse riding and mountain biking/hiking
- Develop a trail into Shot Gun Falls and include in outreach materials
- Hiking is not a popular activity in the Corridor because Hardy Creek-area trails are not desirable
- Work with Weyrhauser to open up trail to Pine Creek

COORDINATION AND PROMOTION

- Signage at gateways (211/213/Interstate-5) directing to Corridor
- Woodburn outlets and End of Oregon Trail Interp. Center→ provide Corridor-related info
- Develop a driving tour including names and their origin, historic stories which would be suitable for tour buses
- Develop a bike tour

- Develop a website specific to the Corridor
- Promote year-round recreation opportunities for shoulder season use

URBAN INTERFACE/SAFETY

- Continued and increased law enforcement is desirable
- Increase public safety info in Corridor
- Trailhead safety issue-some users not aware of seasonal hunting (need to post season information)
- Post alerting signs of hunters in area during legal seasons, including dates of elk and deer seasons