

CLIMB

Cascade Locks International Mountain Bike Trail



Located in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge within the Cascade Range, Cascade Locks possesses bountiful scenic and recreational opportunities. Environmental conditions such as; soils, vegetation, and temperate climate combine to produce ideal trails which remain in great condition throughout the year.

Due to the substantial demand for trails closer to Portland, Oregon, a destination mountain bike trail system will contribute significantly to the diversity of the tourism industry in Cascade Locks. The trail would begin in Cascade Locks and then split into trails accommodating the beginner to the most advanced mountain bicyclists.

A feasibility study, conceptual trail plan, and master trail plan have already been completed since the project began in 2007, thanks to the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA), Alta Planning + Design, and funding support from the Port of Cascade Locks, City of Cascade Locks, and Hood River County.

The next step is to conduct a review of the trail corridor under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In October 2010, the Port was informed that the US Forest Service did not program staff time to perform the NEPA analysis and that funding would not be provided until 2013 or later. Eager to keep the project moving forward, an agreement was made with the USFS to allow the Port to solicit proposals from qualified engineering firms to perform the required NEPA analysis, and for the Port to fund the analysis. Eleven proposals were received in February 2011. The proposals ranged from \$170,000 to almost \$400,000. This level of cost burden is not affordable by our small community.

The Port and the USFS have worked out a tentative agreement to allow this project to continue to move forward. The Port will issue a contract with PBS Engineering to perform the biological, cultural and species & manage surveys over the next two years. In 2013, the USFS will take that information and prepare the environmental analysis. The Port and the City of Cascade Locks urge the Oregon Congressional delegation to support adequate budget levels for US Forest Service so that it can contribute to the completion of the NEPA study for this project.

