

Coast Trails!

Newsletter of the National Coast Trail Association

Projects 2015/2016

Oregon Coast Trail 2021 plan provides updated solutions Implementation through advocacy, education, and action becomes organization's primary goal

Eugene, OR – The National Coast Trail Association (NCTA) completed their revised plan, *Oregon Coast Trail 2021: Final Connections, Logistics Strategy* in October 2015. This report was initially submitted to various administrative staff of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) during November 2015 and will continue during 2016. The report represents the trail organization's updated proposals not only with solutions for missing gaps to complete the trail by the agency's previously announced 2021 target date, but also provides recommendations for other infrastructure needed, such as designated primitive campsites, to make the trail logistically doable along its entire length.

"We needed to update our decade-old plan since things on the coast have changed," notes NCTA executive director Al LePage. "New trail opportunities have arisen from such things as new public land acquisition to discoveries about access along certain areas of the coast."

The goals of the plan are to provide OPRD and other stakeholders with the recommendations and other information needed to (1) assist OPRD in developing a completed basic route for the Oregon Coast Trail in the short-term by the agency's own

target date of 2021, (2) encourage OPRD to allow overnight camping for backpackers-only within specific day-use state parks, (3) offer other routing solutions in the long-term to eventually complete the Oregon Coast Trail with the highest quality recreational hiking experience possible given any and all existing constraints, and (4) address the preservation of special areas along the coast to protect and enhance the overall trail experience.

"Implementation has now become one of our primary goals," continues LePage, "and we immediately began sharing the plan with the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department and will continue to do so with the agency and other key stakeholders during 2016 and beyond. Advocacy, education and action will continue to be the hallmark of our primary strategy."

Presenting the report to OPRD staff at various levels of the agency and other stakeholders is one immediate objective, which will in part be supported with the remaining funds of the Meyer Memorial Trust grant used to develop the report, and in accordance with the purposes it was provided. The organization will also strategically seek out and act upon existing and evolving opportunities and potential threats to continue to move forward towards completing the Oregon Coast Trail.

Oregon Coast Trail 2021



Image: Ecola State Park looking south, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

Final Connections, Logistic Strategy



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National Coast Trail Association
October 2015

Over fifty new signs mark the Columbia River Water Trail

Signage helps paddlers identify key locations for access, camping, food along the lower Columbia

Portland, OR – The Estuary Partnership installed new signs along the Lower Columbia River Water Trail during spring and early summer 2015 to help paddlers identify key locations like launch and landing sites, camping sites, and on-water food options.

The signs were installed at sites in WA and OR from Beacon Rock to Netul Landing near Fort Clatsop in Lewis & Clark National Historical Park. Each water trail sign is site specific and includes the site name, river mile, and amenity icons, plus logos from the Estuary Partnership, the site owner, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Funding for the signs was secured from the National Park Service by Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and the Lewis and Clark National Park Association.

The Lower Columbia River Water Trail stretches 146 river miles from Bonneville Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River at the Pacific Ocean.

As an ad-hoc committee of the Estuary Partnership, the Lower Columbia River Water Trail Committee was formed in 2001 as a bi-state coalition of varied stakeholders involved in the initial development of the trail. The National Coast Trail Association, one of the early committee members, was involved in the early planning, promotion and outreach efforts.

The Water Trail website at <http://www.estuarypartnership.org/explore> provides non-motorized boaters tips on navigating the Water Trail, an interactive map, trip recommendations, safety information, and other resources for paddlers.

The Estuary Partnership was established in 1995 by the Governors of WA and OR and the US Environmental Protection Agency to provide regional coordination, to advance science, and to get on-the-ground results in the lower Columbia River and estuary. It is a collaborative program led by farmers, educators, businesses, economic and conservation interests, community members, federal agencies, and state and tribal governments and works to restore and protect habitat, improve water quality and reduce pollution, and provide information about the river to a range of audiences.

(Source: Text/image, Estuary Partnership April 22, 2015 press release)

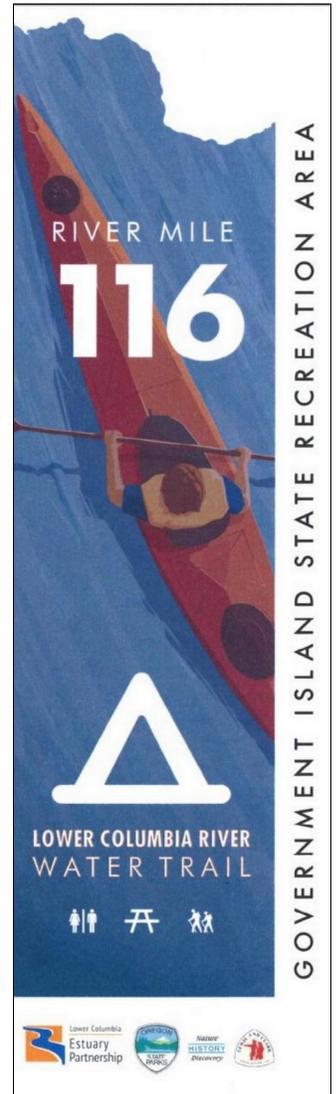


Image: The River Mile 116 Sign

Trail Development

Working for Recreation & Public Access

Trail Maintenance, North Coast State Parks



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Repair and restoration of degraded sections of coastal trails is planned in 2016, funded through a \$162,000 Recreational Trails Grant, for Oswald West State Park and Cape Lookout State Park. The projects total 7.8 miles and include the western half of the Cape Lookout Trail plus two sections of the Oregon Coast Trail, both the Cape Falcon Trail and the Neahkahnie Mountain Trail. (Image/OPRD)

Permit Signed, First Trail Built for "C2C Trail"

On July 7, 2015, *Siuslaw National Forest* and the *Corvallis-to-Sea ("C2C") Trail Partnership* signed a historic 5-year federal permit. The permit allows the *Partnership* to build, maintain, and manage those portions of the C2C Trail that cross *US Forest Service* lands on the 35-mile eastern half of the route that can now link Corvallis with *Big Elk Campground* 35 miles to the west. Before the permit expires on December 31, 2019, a new permit will be required, and the *Partnership* envisions that it could include all, or a significant portion of, the remaining half of the proposed route to Ona Beach, if only initially as a "wilderness class" (cleared but otherwise unimproved) trail. Volunteers have begun building the last segment of the new



Sugarbowl Creek trail that will link Shotpouch Road with Harlan Road. In addition to the vital trail building over the next half year, signs must still be bought and installed and maps printed. Completion of the eastern half of the route is slated for 2016 with an official opening target date of June 4, *National Trails Day*.

(Text/Trail Logo: C2C Trail Partnership)

Visit <http://www.c2ctrail.org/> for more information

Olympic Discovery Trail, Trestle Replacement



Work is nearing completion on the *Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe's* replacement of the Dungeness River trestle that was blown out by flooding in Feb. 2015. Construction of the new structure, consisting of five prefabricated iron

spans placed on extensively engineered concrete piling/pier assemblies, has progressed smoothly under the Tribe's direction and should be done during winter 2016. The *Peninsula Trails Coalition* is working with the *Tribe* and the *Dungeness River Audubon Center* to completely renew the surface of the trestle bridge itself and the east-side ramp, both badly in need of replacement. The work is scheduled to begin February 2016 and move forward quickly as a complete renovation of this signature section of the Olympic Discovery Trail. The *Peninsula Trails Coalition (PTC)*, founded in 1988, is the all-volunteer nonprofit that advocates for the completion and maintenance of the envisioned 126-mile Olympic Discovery Trail, a non-motorized multi-use trail system connecting communities across Washington's North Olympic Peninsula from Port Townsend to LaPush, WA.

(Text: Jeff Bohman, PTC President/Image: Peninsula Trails Coalition)

Visit <http://www.olympicdiscoverytrail.com/> for trail information

The two-sided one sheet print version of this newsletter uses recycled paper and soy-based inks. Printed by **Uprinting.com**

Education

Promoting Coastal Trails to Everyone

Two Oregon Coast Trail Books Published 2015

Written by veteran Oregon Coast Trail hikers, and offered as a special insert at the end of the PDF newsletter, are two books described using their own promotional information. *Day Hiking: Oregon Coast, 2nd Edition* by Bonnie Henderson is a revised "all new" hiking guidebook, and *Exploring the Oregon Coast Trail* by Connie Soper is a new hiking guidebook that also includes some Oregon coast history.

Salmonberry Trail, Watch Informational Video

A short video about the Salmonberry Trail concept, envisioned to provide non-motorized recreation from Banks to Tillamook, OR along the 86 miles of the Port of Tillamook Bay railroad, has been created. Click this direct link to watch video: <https://youtu.be/TsuYXyRvi-0>

Redesign NCTA Website, Expand OCT Website

The *National Coast Trail Association's* main website, CoastTrails.org, was first launched in 1999 and needs to be redesigned literally from a 20th to a 21st-century website during 2016 to better serve our members, the organization and its visitors. Its successful OregonCoastTrail.info "sub-website," besides the annual update for 2016, could also potentially be expanded to better serve both our members, other visitors and for all hikers using the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT).

Conservation

Taking Action for Coastal Preservation

No Golf Course for Bandon State Natural Area



The approved land exchange between *Bandon Biota*, a company associated with *Bandon Dunes Golf Resort*, and the *Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD)* regarding *Bandon State Natural Area (BSNA)* was terminated in September 2015. An apparent lack of groundwater and new requirements by the *Bureau of Land Management*, the agency that gave the land to the *State of Oregon* in 1968 for "public parks purposes only," but kept a reversionary interest on the deed, were the reasons given for *Bandon Biota* to end the land exchange. Under the final approved proposal 280 inland acres of the 878 acre *BSNA* property would have been traded to *Bandon Biota* as part of a future 27-hole golf course. The *National Coast Trail Association* submitted written input both in 2013 and 2014 to the *Oregon State Parks Commission* with the aim to preserve *BSNA* in its entirety and to maintain and potentially enhance the values of conservation for wildlife and recreation for future generations.

(Incorporates info from, and *BSNA* image courtesy of, the Oregon Coast Alliance.)

Visit <http://www.oregoncoastalliance.org/> for more information

The annual election of board members, in accordance with the National Coast Trail Association's existing bylaws, requires the general membership to vote for their election. The following candidates have submitted the following statements in this regard for your consideration. The ballot, which appears to the right, needs to be received by January 23rd to be counted by mail OR you may VOTE ONLINE through Jan. 23rd. Thank you for your hopeful participation in the 2016 board election.

Candidate **Benjamin Ward**, Portland, OR – Incumbent

I have been a long time supporter of the *National Coast Trail Association (NCTA)*, and Oregon, my home for the last 34 years, has a gem in its beach access law (golden anniversary in three years), quite different than in New England where I grew up. So, what originally attracted me to the organization was its focus on enhancing everyone's access and use of our great coast with its work on the Oregon Coast Trail. Through *NCTA's* work and the efforts of like-minded people, organizations, agencies and coastal communities, coastal access and preservation is now better than in the past. Of course, *NCTA's* efforts have not been limited to the Oregon coast, also working on important trail issues in Washington state and elsewhere. Likewise, I feel I shouldn't limit my *NCTA* support to yearly financial contributions. While I am not new to participation on boards (congregation, alternative school program), this would be my first with a non-profit. Any board benefits from multiple skill sets -- and my strongest is as a lifelong engineer -- is a tendency to focus on problem solving and attention to details. If elected, I will carry out my responsibilities, attend to the organizations current needs, and work on any structural changes required for its future health.

Candidate **Kristen Leibelt**, Portland, OR – Incumbent

I'm a long-time member of the *National Coast Trail Association*, and have followed the organization's progress over the years with great interest.

I strongly support the primary tenets of the organization: to promote trail development, to provide education aligned with coast trails and to support conservation of those environs. I believe in the organization's actions for equal public access to beach and coastal areas as critical components to the success of their efforts to "Keep the coast for everyone."

I would like to further express my support in the upcoming year by serving as a board member of the *National Coast Trail Association*.

Candidate **Mary Ann Schmidt**, Portland, OR –Incumbent

I believe it's important to provide access to our coastlines through recreational trails, public access, and the preservation of natural and historic environments.

The *National Coast Trail Association* has played a role in providing this kind of access through their projects relative to trail development, education and conservation. Links or access to coastal areas need to be maintained or enhanced rather than being lost by land use changes, such as from development. Protection of the trail corridor can also mean the preservation of the natural environment through which it travels, ultimately establishing a kind of coastal greenway. The organization also has a role to play in advocating for the preservation of unique natural habitats and special places of cultural or historic value.

I also appreciate how this organization operates at a grassroots level and supports the efforts of the *Oregon Parks & Recreation Department* to build and maintain portions of the Oregon Coast Trail.

My work experience includes over 20 years as an environmental educator in both the public and non-profit sectors. My passion is field-based learning and community engagement, and I have worked with K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students. I have served for 17 years on the board of the *Oregon 4-H Center*, which is managed through the *OSU Foundation/4-H Foundation*. In addition I am the retired director of both the *Student Watershed Research Project* and the *Environmental Professional Program at Portland State University*. It would be a privilege to serve on the board of the *National Coast Trail Association*.

NATIONAL COAST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

2016 OFFICIAL BALLOT

CANDIDATES

Please **vote for three** Board Members by marking an "x" in the adjacent boxes

Benjamin Ward

Kristen Leibelt

Mary Ann Schmidt

VOTE ONLINE through Jan. 23rd at this direct link
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RJXMJL8>

OR . . . Print and Mail this ballot
which must be received by January 23rd to the . . .

National Coast Trail Association
PO Box 2491
Eugene, OR 97402

THANK YOU FOR VOTING!

OFFICIAL ANNOUCEMENT **20th ANNUAL MEETING**

National Coast Trail Association
General Membership Meeting, 6:00-6:30 PM
First Quarterly Winter Board Meeting, 6:30-8:30 PM
Sunday, January 24th 2016
824 SE Lambert St, Portland, OR 97202

A Note from the Director . . .

First, thank you for your continued support over the years, your individual contributions have been crucial to carrying out our work.

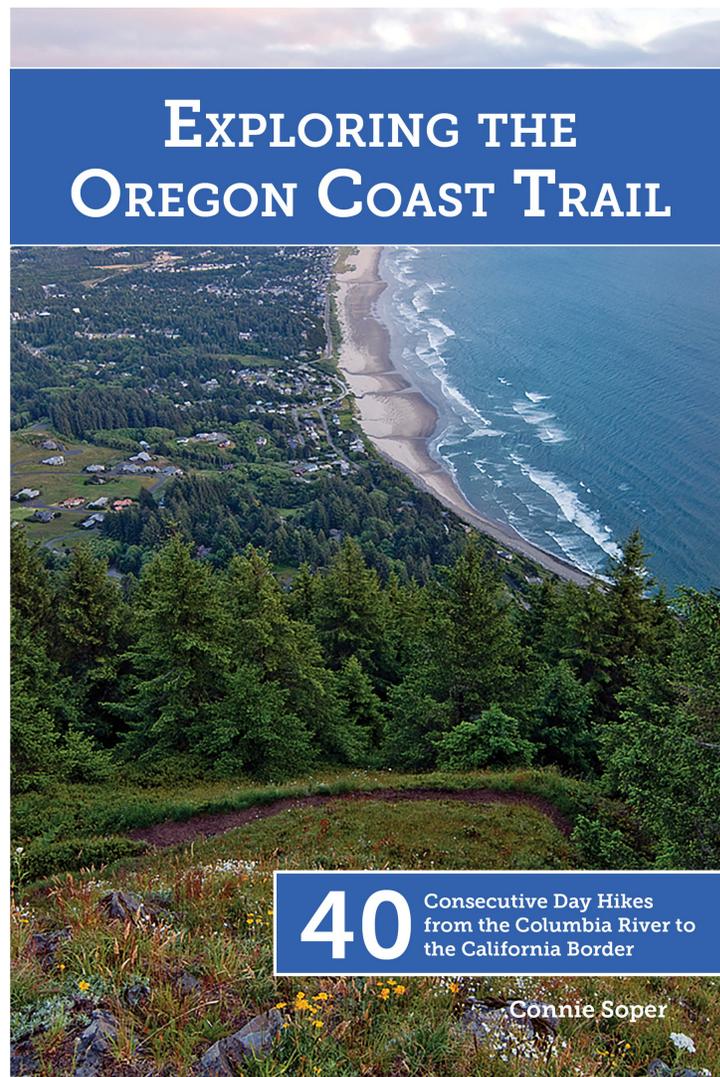
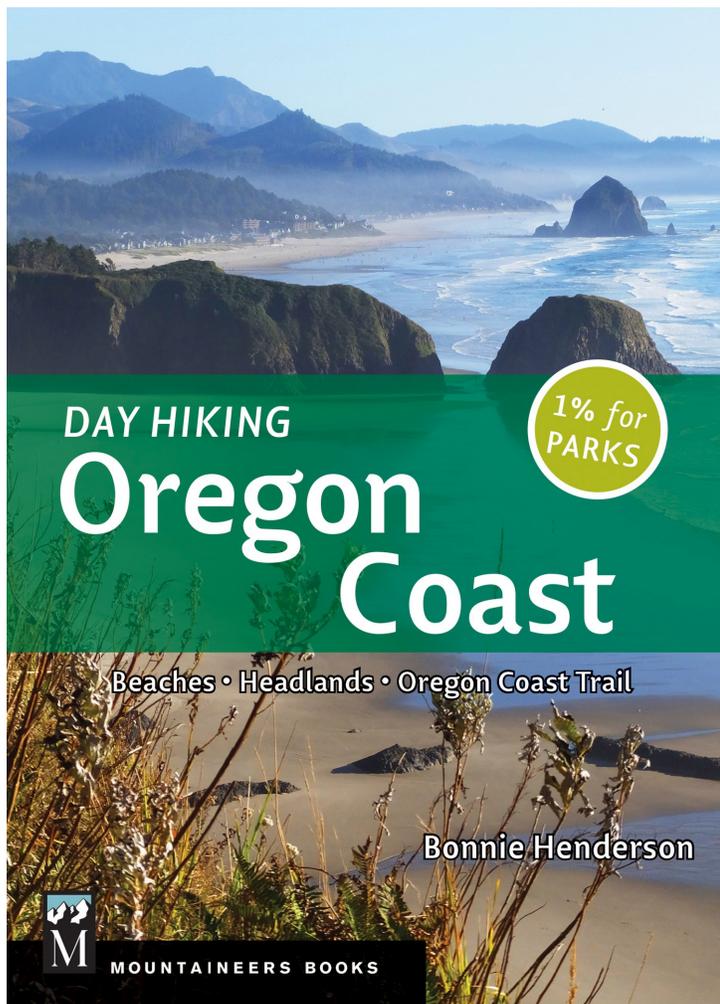
Next, the expected move to Lane County in Spring 2015 did in fact occur with the purchase of a new home, which also meant officially relocating the organization to Eugene, Oregon.

Strategically, since our primary focus is the continued development and completion of the Oregon Coast Trail, our new location provides both relatively quick access and a more central location both for meetings and other work in the field.

Another big change, unprecedented since the creation of the *Oregon Recreational Trails Advisory Council* in 1971, is that the "state trails coordinator" position the *Council* originally created ceased to exist at the end of 2015. Given that a major function of that position was to oversee and implement the development of the Oregon Coast Trail, the end of this position was a big surprise, but I'm working to better understand -- and will also advocate for -- the continued involvement in a primary way of the *Oregon Parks & Recreation Department* towards realizing the dream of a completed Oregon Coast Trail.

What all this also means is that since we have our own "trail plan" with specific recommendations and solutions from our perspective, that we could potentially get more directly involved in the development of the Oregon Coast Trail itself. Our approach would be to cooperatively work with key stakeholders sharing mutual goals that would help achieve the vision of a completed, maintained and protected trail.

Al LePage, Executive Director



Day Hiking: Oregon Coast, 2nd Edition

by Bonnie Henderson is a special sort of hiking guidebook. On one hand, there are dozens of hikes to choose from for an easy family outing. However, it also is a comprehensive guide to a once-in-a-lifetime, multiday trek of the ever-popular Oregon Coast Trail. Essentially this guide works for everyone wanting to experience any or all of Oregon's Pacific Coast.

This comprehensive and engaging new edition includes:

- All new maps, GPS coordinates added to all hikes
- 132 hikes—including the entire Oregon Coast Trail from Washington to California
- All new Hikes-at-a-Glance chart
- Day hikes for vacationers or locals looking for a trail with sea views
- All new photos, including a color insert
- Coastal day hikes and beach walks for all skill levels
- Details and advice for through-hiking and section-hiking the 382-mile Oregon Coast Trail

(Source: <http://www.mountaineersbooks.org/Day-Hiking-Oregon-Coast-2nd-Edition-P1655.aspx>)

Exploring the Oregon Coast Trail

by Connie Soper provides the information you need to complete the entire trail, or to enjoy segments of it as a series of day hikes. This book also provides insights on chapters of Oregon's coastal history that make hiking the Oregon Coast Trail a special and unique experience. In doing so, it reminds us to celebrate Oregon's open beaches and not take them for granted.

Highlights of the book include:

- Detailed route descriptions for 40 consecutive day hikes along the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT), beginning at the mouth of the Columbia River and ending at the California border
- Mile-by-mile maps for most hikes
- Directions for reaching the start and end points of each hike
- Logistical information needed to successfully navigate the OCT, such as tidal considerations and arranging for boat rides
- Historical, present day photographs of places visited along the OCT
- Features on the history/personalities that make hiking the OCT possible

(Source: <http://www.dragonfly-press-pdx.com/books/trail-hiking>)