

Regional trails system plan

oregonmetro.gov/trails



- 60 Existing Pedestrian Trail
- 30 Planned Pedestrian Trail
- 45 Existing Multi-use Trail
- 25 Planned Multi-use Trail
- 22 Existing On-Street Connection
- 44 Planned On-Street Connection
- 57 Conceptual Trail
- 70 Water Trail
- Parks and Natural Areas
- WES Commuter Rail
- MAX Light Rail

Quarterly Trails Forum

January 10, 2024



State Legislative Outlook



Oregonians care about outdoor recreation!

- 94.6% of Oregonians participate in at least one outdoor recreation activity
- More than 80% of Oregonians use paved or natural surface trails
-2025-2029 SCORP



Trails = Healthy Communities

Value of Outdoor Recreation to Oregon

Outdoor recreation in Oregon supported:

\$16 billion

in spending

192,000

full and part-time jobs



Also, because JOY!



Federal Policy and Budget Knowns and Unknowns

- Federal agency budgets; USFS funding crisis; Renew GAOA
- EXPLORE Act recent passage
- Federal lands policies and regulations: Owyhee National Monument; Utah lawsuit
- Full Funding for Recreation Trails Program
- Ski Area Permit Fee Retention (SHRED Act) - USFS Funding
- Changing rules for non-profits?
- How federal trade and immigration policy may affect industry and individuals

Legislative Process

101

**Raise your
hand if
you've ever**

...

signed a petition about a
legislative issue

emailed a legislator about
something important to you

given testimony in a
public hearing

Oregon's 2025 Legislative Calendar

- January 13: Organizational Days
- January 21: Session Begins
- February 26: Quarterly Revenue Forecast
- March 21: First Committee Posting Deadline
- April 9: First Chamber Vote Deadline
- May 9: Second Committee Posting Deadline
- May 14: Quarterly Revenue Forecast
- May 23: Second Chamber Vote Deadline
- June 18 Target Sine Die (Hope to Adjourn)
- June 29: Constitutional Sine (Must adjourn)

2025 Session Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4							1
5	6	7	8	9 New Member Academy	10 New Member Academy	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13 Org Days: Swearing In	14 Trainings	15 Trainings	16 Trainings	17 LC Staff Request Deadline	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20 MLK Day	21 Session Begins	22	23	24	25	16	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21 LC returns drafts	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25 Measure Intro Deadline	26 Revenue Forecast	27	28	

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Begin Daily Floor	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 First Work Session	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 First Chamber deadline	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 First Work Session	10
11	12	13	14 Revenue Forecast	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Second Chamber Deadline	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

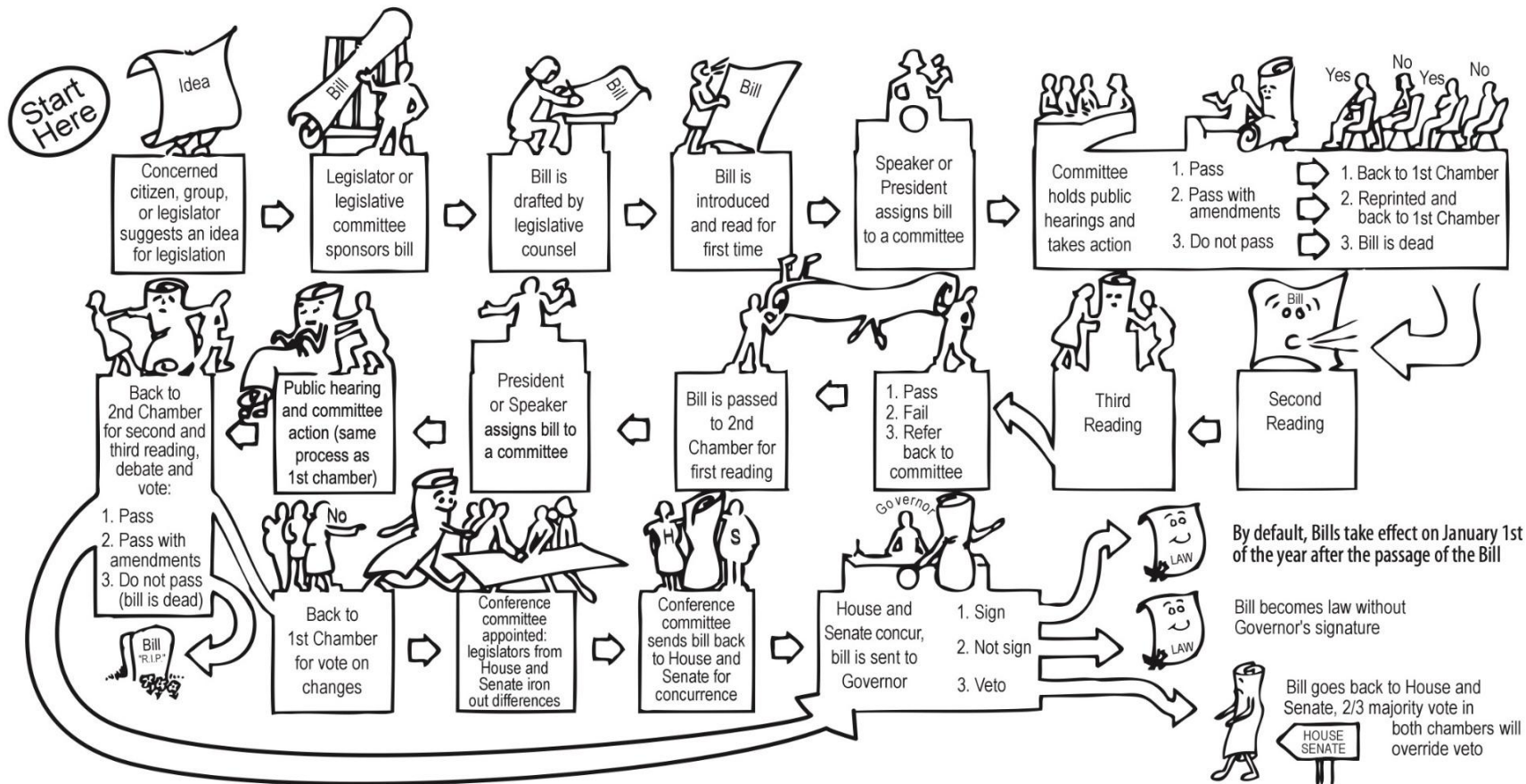
JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Target Sine Die	19 Juneteenth	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Constitutional Sine Die	30					

Dates subject to the adoption of CR (2025 Regular Session)

Organizational Day	Member swearing in; organization; and first reading of pre-session filed bills.
Training Days	Member and staff training.
Leg. Counsel Deadlines	Deadlines for bills to be requested, returned by LC, and introduced (after these deadlines, subsequent drafts and intros count against per legislator limits. See SR 13.15(2); HR 12.35.
State Holiday	Holiday.
Important Session Dates	Deadlines for bills to be posted for work sessions, then voted out of policy committees in the first and second chambers. Joint policy committees adhere to the second chamber deadline only. Does not apply to Conduct, Rules, Revenue, or JWM.
Floor Sessions	Senate and House floor sessions will be announced by the Senate President or House Speaker. Daily floor sessions begin on Monday, March 10, 2025.
Revenue Forecast	Revenue forecast.

How an Idea Becomes Law

A simple view of the Oregon Legislative Process



Our Top Issues



Recreational
Immunity



Trails (OCP)
Funding

Recreational Immunity

- Laws that encourage landowners to open lands to the public for recreational use by protecting the landowner if a recreational user seeks damages after an injury. Oregon's law is ORS 105.682.
- Fields vs Newport Decision: Subjective Intent is too subjective for Recreational Immunity to function as the legislature intended
- CIS Memo: Improved trails that are used to access a recreational area should be closed.



Recreational Immunity: Effects

'Tough spot': Oregon Coast towns close trails after lawsuit puts legal shield in jeopardy



Zach Urness

Salem Statesman Journal

Published 7:26 a.m. PT Dec. 15, 2023 | Updated 11:41 a.m. PT Dec. 17, 2023



Oregon cities weigh increased liability worries on public trails



By **Justin Higginbottom** (JPR)

Jan. 8, 2024 10:42 a.m.

Cities including Bandon and Ashland are waiting for guidance from the state Legislature to decide whether to close trails to avoid new potential liability.

The City of Bandon is considering closing its trail system. In an agenda report for the Jan. 9 council meeting, City Attorney Shala Kudlac noted that “local municipalities have been advised by its insurance provider ... to close City-owned and maintained improved trails as a precaution and to avoid potential liability.”



Recreational Immunity: Taking Action



1. Activated POR Coalition.

2. Led field-organizing effort for outreach to legislators.

3. Hosted Trails Day at the Capitol.

4. Passed SB 1576: Temporary Fix for Recreational Immunity

2024 Legislation: SB 1576

- Clarifies that walking, running, and bicycling are covered recreational purposes
- Clarifies that recreational immunity applies both when the right of way has not been improved and when the right of way (or trail) has been improved, designed or maintained to provide access for recreation.
- Sunsets January 2, 2026.

**2025: Working to remove the Sunset:
SB 179**



Transportation Measure in 2025

Our transportation system is running out of money. Our legislature is trying to fix it.

They'll need to consider:

- Declining gas tax revenue
- Maintenance backlog
- Historic increase in traffic deaths & injuries
- Transportation carbon emissions rising
- $\frac{2}{3}$ majority req'd for revenue package

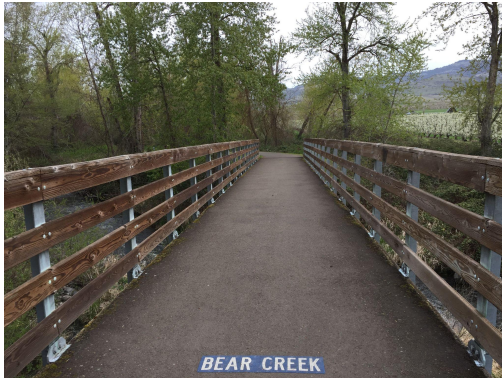




Safe. Clean. Fair. Accountable.
Transportation for a **thriving** Oregon.

Our #1 Goal: \$50 Million/year for Oregon Community Paths

- Trails are the backbone of active transportation networks
- Trails create safe places for people of all ages and abilities to walk and bike
- Trails help communities meet VMT reduction and climate goals to support local tourism economies
- Trails increase access to nature and health and wellness and joy

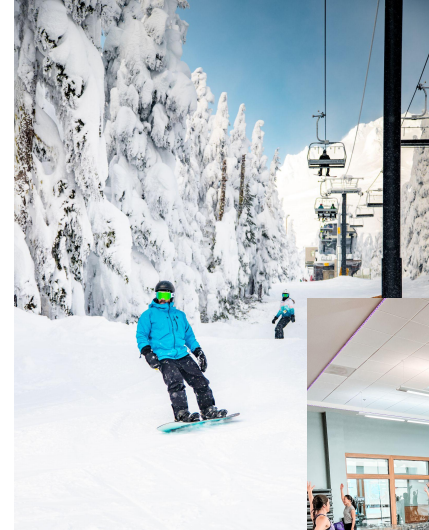


Other 2025 bills of interest

- Oregon Conservation Corps Funding
 - Created in Oregon's 2021 Wildfire Omnibus Package (SB 762)
 - Youth/Young Adult WorkForce Development Program focused on creating defensible space around at-risk structures, \$10m/biennium for 2021-23 2023-2025. Seeking comparable investment for 2025-27
- RV Fee/ Removal Fund
 - Increases registration fees for campers and motorhomes to help fund state and county parks. Adds an extra fee for RV trip permits that would go into a new Department of Transportation fund to pay for towing and disposal of abandoned RVs. The new extra fees will last 10 years.
- Wildlife Crossing package
- Recreational Liability

Recreational Liability

- **Liability waivers:** allow business operators to inform customers about the risks associated with an activity and voluntarily choose to participate in them and protect consumers from gross negligence.
- **Bagley v. Mt. Bachelor:** Oregon Supreme Court ruling that effectively nullified liability waivers in Oregon
- Many recreation businesses are one lawsuit away from going out of business




Recreational Liability - Impact

- Recreation options are disappearing - mountain biking trails, kayaking adventures and more closing down
- Skyrocketing liability costs are making recreation more expensive for every Oregonian
- Recreation companies are wary to expand here
- Some insurance companies are dropping coverage options in Oregon all together



PROTECT OREGON
RECREATION



As a small rural business owner, I'm concerned if we don't restore a balanced [liability waiver] approach, small businesses and rural communities will bear the brunt of reduced access and higher costs for recreation options.

Peter Lunoak,
Flywheel Bicycles

How to Weigh In

Reach out anytime:

Email, call, or request a meeting with your legislators or with relevant committee members any time.

Sign petitions:

Look out for petitions to support causes that are important to you.

Testify at hearings:

Submit written testimony or sign up to deliver live testimony when a bill is scheduled for a hearing.

Delivering an effective message

Be specific:

Make it clear at the beginning what you are asking for.

Make it timely:

Relate the issue to broader community impact and goals

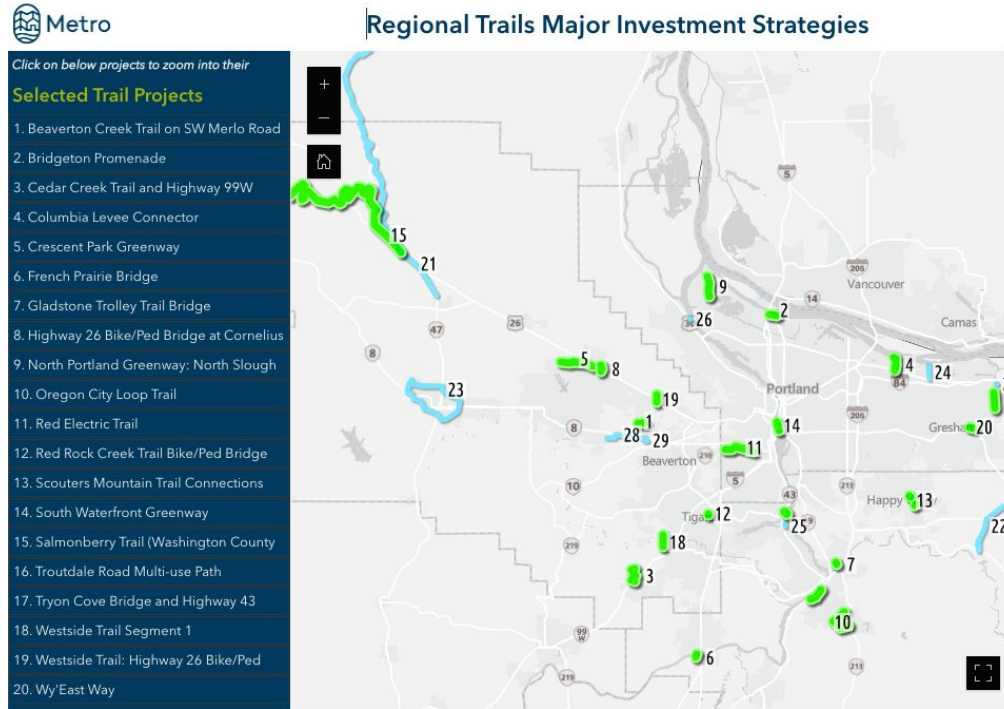
Get personal:

Explain why the issue matters to YOU. What YOU see in your work.

Localize:

Mention that you are a constituent in their district and relate the ask to your community.

Major Investment Strategy Resources



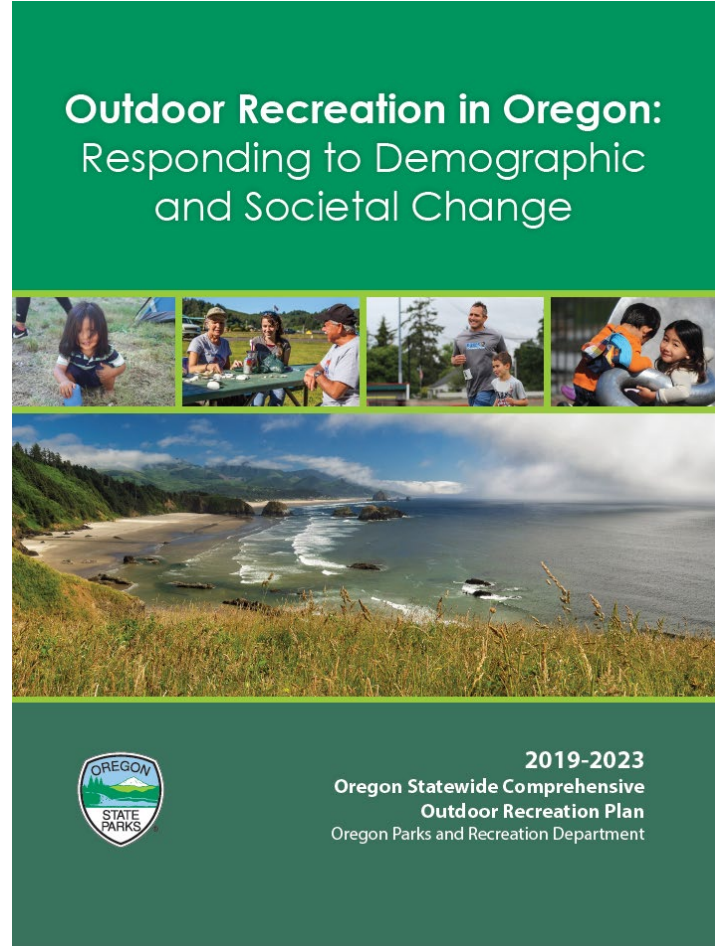
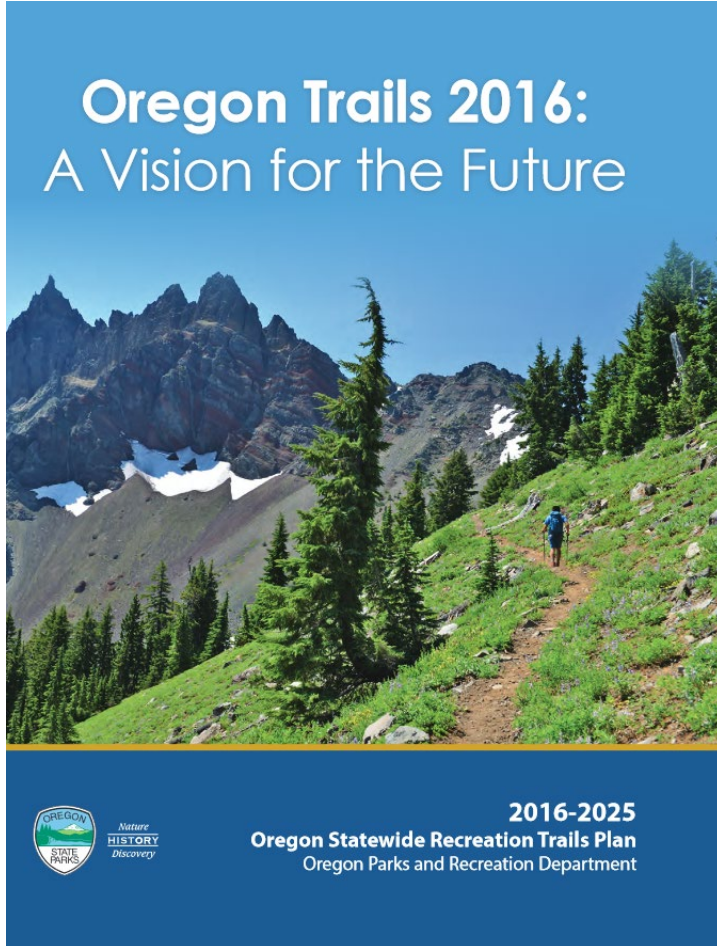
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/regional-trails-and-greenways-system#Major-investment-strategy--2>

What's Next

- **Thursday, January 30th, 6-7 pm: Letter to Editor Training offered by Move Oregon Forward Campaign**
- **See our most recent newsletter for other upcoming events, funding opportunities, etc:**
<https://mailchi.mp/oregontrailscoalition/summit-21501724?e=6e78486e00>
- **Stay tuned for Trails Day at the Capitol announcement (March 10th)**
- **Save the Date for the 2025 Oregon Outdoor Recreation and Trails Summit in in Pendleton, November 6-8, 2025**



Statewide Outdoor Recreation and Trails Plans: What have we learned and where do we go from here?



Agenda

- What We've Learned: SCORP & Trail Partners Survey – 15 min
- Table Discussions: Shaping the 2026 Trails Plan – 30 min
- Report Back – 15 min

Presenters

- Jessica Horning
OPRD Statewide Trails Planner
- Jodi Bellefeuille
OPRD Recreational Trails Program Coordinator
- Caleb Dickson
Research Analyst

Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: Responding to Demographic and Societal Change




2019-2023
**Oregon Statewide Comprehensive
Outdoor Recreation Plan**
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Updated by OPRD every 5 years
- Purpose
 - Evaluate supply of outdoor recreation facilities and resources
 - Evaluate demand and public preferences for outdoor recreation
 - Identify priority statewide outdoor recreation issues
 - Update Land Water Conservation Fund and Local Government grant program criteria
- 2025-29 additional focus areas
 - Benefits of outdoor recreation (health, economic)
 - Balancing conservation and recreation needs
 - Engaging underserved communities
- Development process
 - Representative statewide survey (>3,000 residents)
 - Recreation needs assessment (178 providers)
 - Advisory committee
 - Open houses and public review

What We Learned from SCORP:

	Trail Use		Economic Impact		Health Impact	Fun Facts!
	% Residents Participating	Annual Activities	Annual Spending	Economic Value		
Non-Motorized Trails	80%	258 million 1-2 times/week	\$501 million (backpacking, skiing, biking only)	\$14.3 Billion	\$945 million	Walking/hiking = #1 outdoor activity for all demographics & #1 new activity during COVID
Motorized Trails	>7%	9.7 million 29 times/year	\$276 million	\$581 million	\$51 million	Permit sales peaked in 2021
Water Trails	>15%	7.8 million 17 times/year	\$115 million	\$785 million	\$22 million	Top 3 new activity during COVID

“Oregon Trails: 2025-29 SCORP Summary Report” available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ORTrails>

Oregon Trails 2016: A Vision for the Future



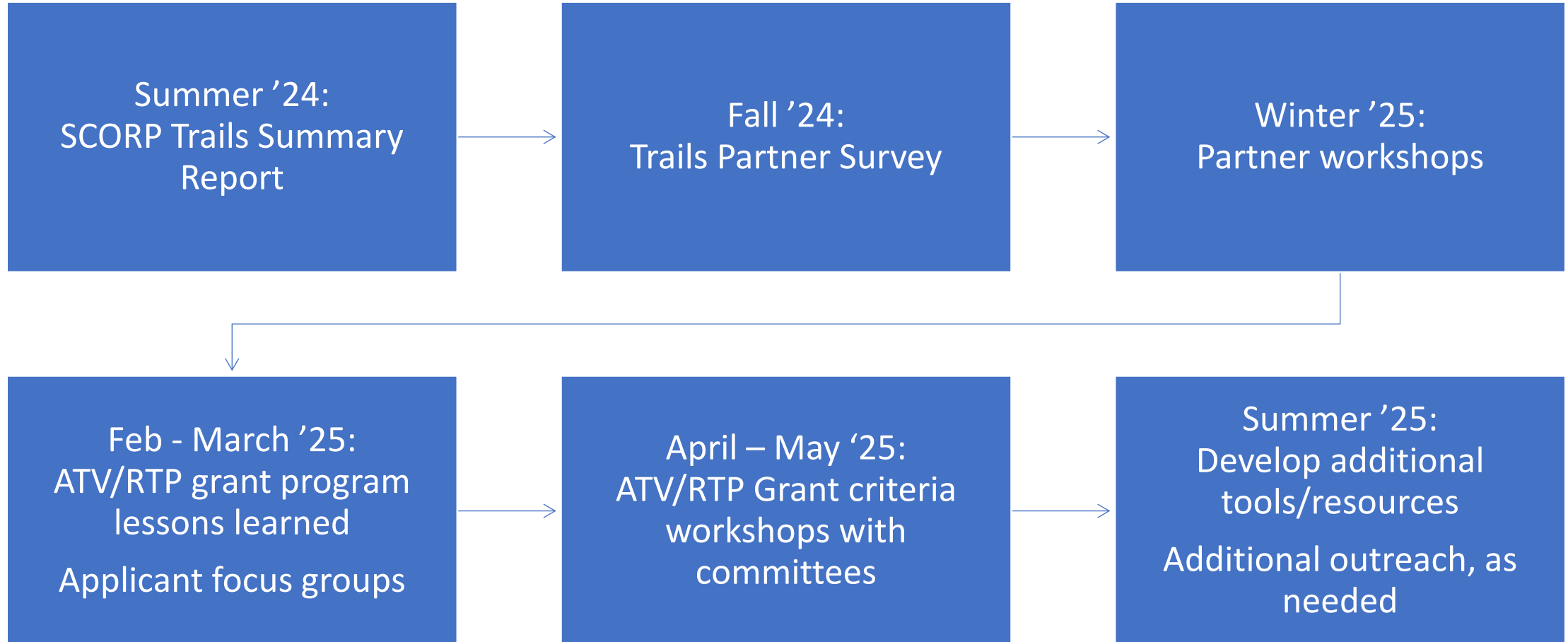
Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

2016-2025
Oregon Statewide Recreation Trails Plan
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Trails Plan

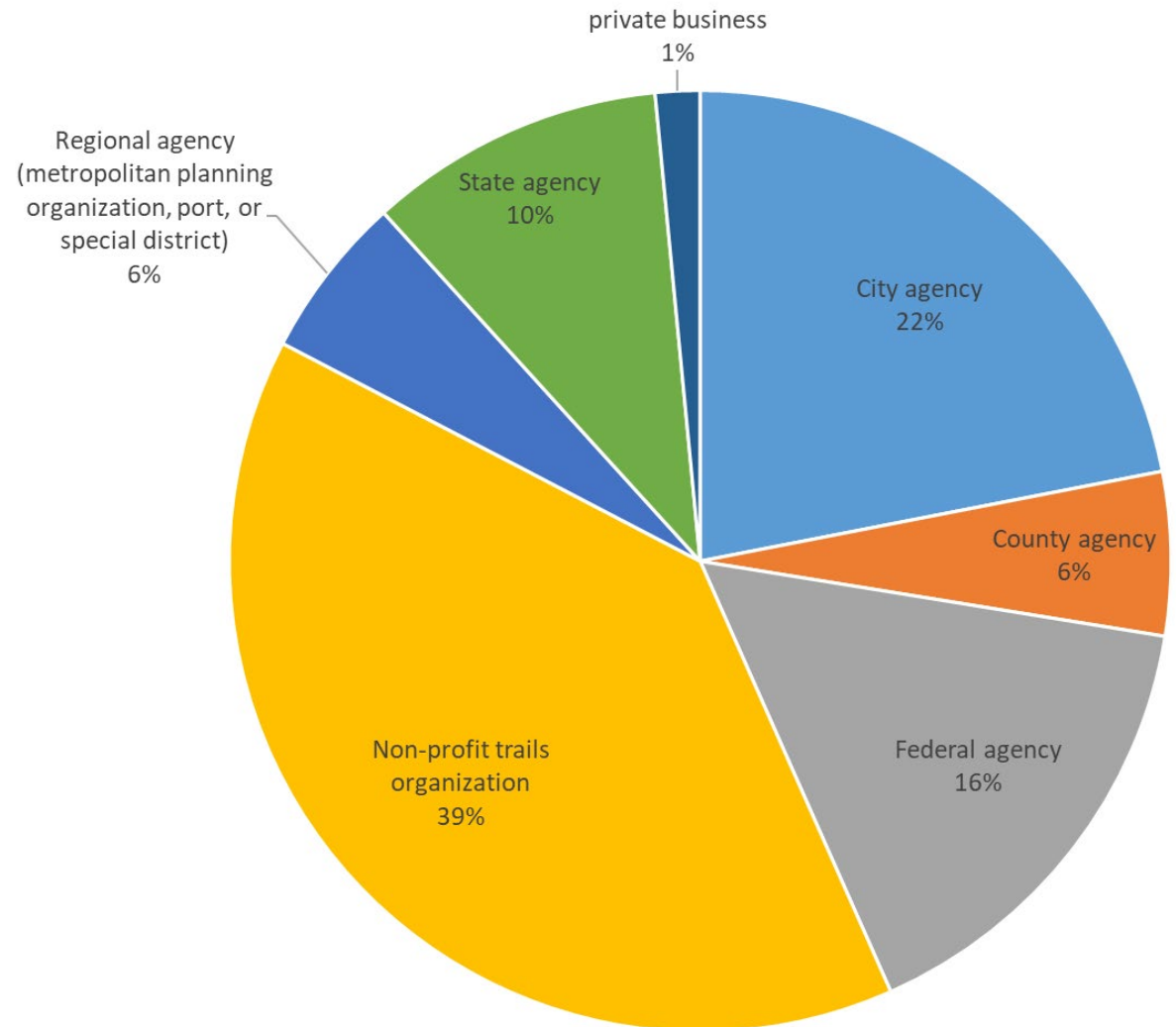
- Updated by OPRD every 10 years
 - May wrap into SCORP update every 5 years in future
- Purpose
 - Update Recreational Trails & ATV grant program criteria
 - Issue identification & prioritization
 - Non-motorized trails
 - Motorized trails (ATV/OHV & snowmobile)
 - Water trails
 - Recommended actions for OPRD and partners
- Development process
 - Trail partner survey
 - Regional workshops
 - Grant program advisory committees

Trails Plan Update Process



Trail Partners Survey

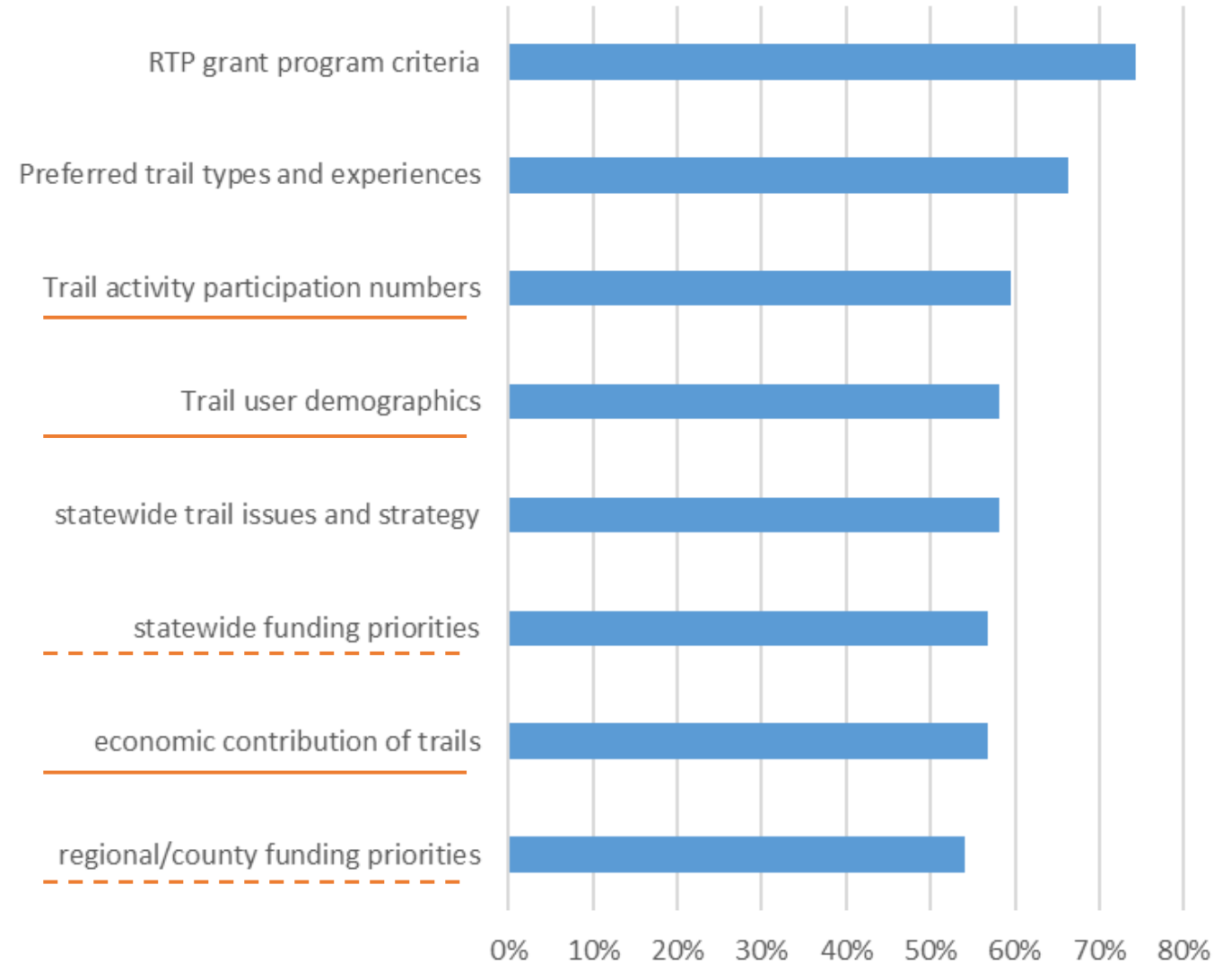
- 196 partner responses
 - 60% government agencies
 - 40% non-profit/private
- Broad geographic representation
- 57% have local parks/trails plan, resource management plan, or corridor plan that guides work
- 37% have used the 2016 Oregon Trails Plan



Trail Partners Survey

- Over half used to:
 - Support a grant application
 - Inform a local/org plan
 - Talking points for advocacy
- Frequently used info not updated by 2025 SCORP:
 - RTP grant criteria
 - Preferred trail types/experiences
 - Statewide trail issues/strategy
 - Funding priorities (trail specific)

Most Used Info in 2016 Trails Plan



Trail Partners Survey

- Strong agreement with focus areas identified by '25 SCORP
 - Funding (94.5%)
 - Maintenance & Stewardship (93.4%)
 - Increasing Accessible Trail Opportunities (89.8%)
- Single biggest challenge to trails
 - Funding
 - Maintenance resources
 - Staff resources (# of staff and training)

Trail Partners Survey

- Most desired resources:
 - List of existing trail funding sources
 - Evaluate options for creating new trail funding sources
 - Trail maintenance best practice & innovations case studies
 - Guidance on recreational immunity
 - Accessible trail signage and information guidance



READY, SET, PLAN!? AN INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO TRAIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

OREGON TRAILS COALITION

A GUIDE FOR anyone who wants to better understand trails planning, decision making, and trail project development. If you're a trail enthusiast with big ideas, a trail advocate, a stewardship volunteer, or public agency staff person interfacing with local partners, this guide is for you.



Open the Guidelines ▶

Access Recreation

GUIDELINES FOR PROVIDING TRAIL INFORMATION TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Click image for PDF version of this document.

October 2013
Revised and refreshed April 2020, but not revised.



Breakout Group Discussion:

- How can the Oregon Trails Plan help to address the following challenges facing non-motorized, motorized, and water trails?
 1. Funding
 2. Maintenance & Stewardship
 3. Increasing Accessible Trail Opportunities
 4. Staff resources (# of staff and training/development)
 5. Recreational Immunity
- What does a Trails Plan resources or action strategy to address this challenge look like?
- Who might lead/support implementation?

Report Back

- **Funding**
- **Maintenance & Stewardship**
- **Increasing Accessible Trail Opportunities**
- **Staff resources (# of staff and training/development)**
- **Recreational Immunity**

More Opportunities to Engage

- Feb. '25 - ATV/RTP Grant Applicant focus groups
- ATV and RTP Advisory Committee Meetings
 - March 5 and 21, 2025 – Lessons Learned discussion after grant recommendation
 - April/May, 2025 – ½ day workshop to update grant criteria for future solicitations
- Virtual User Group Workshops (dates TBD)
- Trail User Survey (dates TBD)

- Invite us to host a workshop in your area!

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