

RECREATION TRAILS

390.950 Short title. ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) may be cited as the Oregon Recreation Trails System Act. [1971 c.614 §1]

390.953 [1971 c.614 §2; 1989 c.904 §27; repealed by 2001 c.104 §134]

390.956 Policy. (1) In order to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding resident and tourist population and in order to promote public access to, travel within and enjoyment and appreciation of, the open-air, outdoor areas of Oregon, trails should be established both near the urban areas of this state and within, adjacent to or connecting highly scenic areas more remotely located.

(2) The purpose of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) is to provide the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a system of recreation trails in this state, by designating certain trails as the initial components of that system, and by prescribing the methods of which, and standards according to which, additional components may be added to the system. [1971 c.614 §3]

390.959 Composition of trails system; establishment of markers. The system of Oregon recreation trails shall be composed of trails established as provided in ORS 390.962 and 390.965. The State Parks and Recreation Department, in consultation with appropriate federal, state and local governmental agencies and public and private organizations, shall establish a uniform marker for the system of Oregon recreation trails. [1971 c.614 §4]

390.962 Criteria for establishing trails; location; statutes authorizing trails for motorized vehicles unaffected. (1) Upon finding that such trails will meet the criteria established in ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) and such supplementary criteria as the State Parks and Recreation Department may prescribe, the department is encouraged and empowered to establish and designate Oregon recreation trails:

(a) Over lands owned by the State of Oregon, by the federal government or by any county, municipality or other local governmental body, with the consent of the state agency, federal agency, county, municipality or other local governmental body having jurisdiction over the lands involved; or

(b) Over lands owned by private persons, in the manner and subject to the limitations provided in ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2).

(2) In establishing such trails, the department shall give special recognition to the need for the establishment of recreation trails in or near, or reasonably accessible to, urban areas. Upon the establishment of any such trail, the department shall designate the primary kind of trail it is to be, based upon the mode or modes of travel to be permitted on such trail, including one or more of the following:

(a) Footpath.

(b) Horseback riding trail.

(c) Bicycle path.

(3) Nothing in ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) affects any other statute authorizing trails for motorized vehicles which is not inconsistent with ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2). [1971 c.614 §5]

390.965 Hearing required; information to be considered. (1) The State Parks and Recreation Department may establish trails after public meetings in the areas of the state where trails are planned and only in accordance with the following criteria:

(a) Emphasis shall be given to the development of trails across public lands.

(b) No trails shall cross private land occupied by a residential dwelling, or upon which a residential dwelling is under construction, within 300 feet of such residential dwelling, without the consent of the owner.

(c) Trails shall be selected to minimize the adverse effects on adjacent landowners or users and their operations.

(d) Development and management of trails shall be designed to harmonize with and complement any established forest, agricultural, or other use plan that is compatible with the purposes of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2).

(2) Before establishing a trail the department shall consider at a public meeting the following information:

(a) The proposed route of such trail (including maps and illustrations) and the recommended mode or modes of travel to be permitted thereon;

(b) The areas adjacent to such trails, to be utilized for scenic, historic, natural, cultural or developmental purposes;

(c) The characteristics that, in the judgment of the department, make the proposed trail suitable as an Oregon recreation trail;

(d) The current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route;

(e) The estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interest in lands, if any;

(f) The plans for developing and maintaining the trail and the cost thereof;

(g) Any anticipated problems of policing the use of such trail and any anticipated hazards to the use of any privately owned lands adjacent to such trail; and

(h) The extent to which the state or its political subdivisions and public and private organizations might reasonably be expected to participate in acquiring the necessary lands and in the administration thereof. [1971 c.614 §6]

390.968 Selection of rights of way for trails. (1) The State Parks and Recreation Department shall select the rights of way for trails designated as Oregon Recreation Trails by ORS 390.962 (1)(a) and (b). Such rights of way shall be:

(a) Of sufficient width and so located as to protect natural conditions, scenic and historic features, and any primitive character of the trail area; to provide campsites, shelters, and related public-use facilities along trails in more remote areas; and to provide reasonable public access.

(b) Located to avoid, in so far as reasonably practicable, established highways, motor roads, mining areas, power transmission lines, existing commercial and industrial developments, range fences and improvements, private logging operations, and any other activities that would be incompatible with the protection of the trailside environment in its natural condition and the use of the trail for outdoor recreation.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, it is recognized that in many instances (especially in urban areas and for some types of trails across or near private land) it may be advisable to locate segments of trails in or near existing rights of way for roads, highways, public utilities or telecommunications utilities, excluding power transmission lines; and it is recognized that trail rights of way on occasion may be located, or from time to time relocated, through, or adjacent to, lands used for private timber (including logging), agriculture, commercial or industrial operations and that such location or relocation of a trail right of way, of itself, shall not impose any limitation upon an otherwise lawful use of the adjacent private land except to the extent of the terms of any agreement with the private landowner as provided in ORS 390.971 (1) and except as may be provided by any zoning ordinance, law or regulation.

(3) The location and width of an Oregon recreation trail right of way across federal lands under the jurisdiction of a federal agency shall be by agreement between that agency and the department.

(4) In selecting a right of way, the department shall endeavor to obtain the advice and assistance of the local governments, private organizations, landowners, the land users concerned, and the advisory council established under ORS 390.977.

(5) The department shall hold a public hearing in the area of the state where the selection of such right of way is to be made. Subject to ORS 390.971, after public hearing, the department may revise the location and width of a right of way from time to time as required by circumstances, with the consent of the head of any federal agency involved, and with such advice and assistance of the local governments, private organizations, landowners, land users, and the advisory council, as the department considers necessary or advisable. [1971 c.614 §7; 1987 c.447 §124]

390.971 Department duties and powers; rules. (1) Within the exterior boundaries of areas under its administration that are included in the right of way selected for an Oregon recreation trail as provided in ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2), the State Parks and Recreation Department may do any of the following:

(a) Enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, federal agencies, other state agencies, local governments, private organizations and individuals in order to provide for the development, operation, maintenance, location and relocation of the trail. Where the trail crosses commercial forestland, such agreement shall make reasonable provision for temporary relocation reasonably required for commercial forest management.

(b) Subject to limitations set forth in ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2), acquire lands or interests in lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds or exchange, or with funds obtained under ORS 390.980.

(2) The department, in the exercise of its exchange authority, may accept title to any nonstate-owned property within a trail right of way, and, in exchange therefor, the department may convey to the grantor of such property any state-owned property under its jurisdiction or the jurisdiction of any state agency consenting to such exchange that the department or the applicable consenting state agency classifies as suitable for exchange or other disposal. The values of the properties so exchanged either shall be approximately equal or, if they are not approximately equal, the values shall be equalized by the

payment of cash to the grantor or to the department or applicable consenting state agency as the circumstances require.

(3) If lands included in an Oregon recreation trail right of way are outside the exterior boundaries of state or federally administered areas, the department shall attempt, and any local governments involved shall be encouraged, to enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, local government, private organizations and individuals in order to develop, administer and maintain the trails and to acquire, develop and administer such lands or interests therein. However, if the department or local governments fail or are unable to enter into such agreements or to acquire such lands or interests therein within one year after the selection of the right of way, the department may acquire private lands or interests therein by donation, exchange or purchase with donated or appropriated funds and may develop and administer such lands or interests therein. Exchanges shall be governed by the provisions of subsection (2) of this section.

(4) Oregon recreation trails shall be administered, protected, developed and maintained by the department, or as provided under subsection (1)(a) of this section, to retain their natural, scenic and historic features. Along trails in more remote areas, provision may be made for campsites, shelters and related public-use facilities. Other uses, including reasonable crossings for motor vehicles, public utilities and water pipes and ditches, that will not substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the trails may be permitted or authorized, as appropriate. The use of motorized vehicles by the general public along any such Oregon recreation trail is prohibited. However, the department shall authorize the use of motorized vehicles when, in its judgment, such vehicles are necessary to meet emergencies, trail construction and maintenance needs or to enable adjacent landowners or land users to have reasonable access to their lands or timber rights. The fact that private lands are included in an Oregon recreation trail by cooperative agreement of a landowner does not preclude the owner of such lands or agents of the owner from using motorized vehicles on or across such trails or adjacent lands from time to time in accordance with such agreement. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law, the state laws, rules and regulations applicable to lands or areas included in any Oregon recreation trail shall continue to apply. Nothing in ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) prohibits the use of roads existing on private lands on September 9, 1971, which may cross or traverse portions of the trail right of way, nor shall ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) prevent trails from crossing such roads.

(5) The department shall endeavor to induce agreements with appropriate state and federal agencies to provide for youth work projects to assist in the construction and maintenance of trails that are part of the Oregon recreation trails system.

(6) The department shall endeavor, when it considers such to be appropriate, to develop and enhance the educational values and opportunities of Oregon recreation trails. In this connection the department shall cooperate with schools, educators and other interested persons or groups in developing and utilizing techniques and materials to demonstrate to and inform the trail-using public of various scenic and natural features visible along or from such trails, including geological, botanical, historical, zoological and similar features.

(7) The department shall place and endeavor to maintain signs at such places as it considers appropriate along Oregon recreation trails advising users of the Oregon laws of

criminal trespass and encouraging users to protect the trails and the rights and property of adjacent landowners.

(8) The department, with the concurrence of any federal agency administering lands through which an Oregon recreation trail passes, and after consultation with the local governments, private organizations and landowners that the department knows or believes to be concerned, and the advisory council established under ORS 390.977, may adopt rules that may be revised from time to time governing protection, management, use, development and administration of an Oregon recreation trail.

(9) The department, on lands not within a forest protection district, upon recommendation of the State Forester, shall have the authority to close trails during periods of high fire danger. The department shall also have the authority to close trails if it deems it necessary to protect the safety of the public.

(10) Notwithstanding the provisions of ORS chapter 477, forestland on which a fire exists that was caused by a person using, for recreational purposes, a trail established pursuant to ORS 390.950 to 390.989, shall not be considered an operation area as defined by ORS 477.001, if the fire did not start within an operation. [1971 c.614 §9; 1973 c.46 §7; 1983 c.740 §123; 1997 c.274 §37; 2003 c.14 §169]

390.974 Intergovernmental cooperation to obtain property for use in trail system. The State Parks and Recreation Department is authorized and encouraged to consult and to cooperate with any state, federal or local governmental agency or body and with any privately owned utility having jurisdiction or control over or information concerning the use, abandonment or disposition of roadways, utility rights of way or other properties suitable for the purpose of improving or expanding the Oregon recreation trails system in order to assure, to the extent practicable, that any such properties having value for Oregon recreation trail purposes may be made available for such use. [1971 c.614 §11]

390.977 Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council; members; appointment; terms; duties; expenses; officers; quorum; meetings. (1) There is established an Oregon Recreation Trails Advisory Council consisting of seven members, at least one from each congressional district in the state. However, not less than two of such members shall be from separate counties bordering upon the ocean shore. Members of the council shall be appointed by the State Parks and Recreation Commission and shall serve at the pleasure of the commission for terms of four years. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the commission shall appoint a successor. A member shall be eligible for reappointment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the commission shall make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

(2) The commission and the State Parks and Recreation Department shall consult with the council from time to time with respect to matters relating to Oregon recreation trails, including the designation and establishment of Oregon recreation trails, the selection of rights of way, the selection, erection and maintenance of markers along the trail routes and the administration of the trails.

(3) Members of the council shall serve without compensation, but the department may pay expenses as provided in ORS 292.495.

(4) The council shall select one of its members as chairperson.

(5) A majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(6) The council shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or a majority of the members of the council. [1971 c.614 §8; 1981 c.545 §7; 1991 c.257 §1]

390.980 Funds for purposes of ORS 390.950 to 390.989; acceptance and use of donated funds; indemnity to owners of land damaged by trail users. In addition to State of Oregon funds available for the purposes of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2), the State Parks and Recreation Department may use such portion of moneys made available to it by any federal agency which may be used for such purposes, including matching funds, as the department determines are necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2). In addition to the foregoing, the department may receive and may encourage the receipt of donated funds or property from individuals, groups or organizations (including trail users) for specified or nonspecified uses in connection with the acquisition, development, maintenance and administration of Oregon recreation trails. The department if it considers it advisable, may provide under its rules and regulations, for the use of a portion of any such donated funds received for nonspecified purposes to grant to an owner of private land adjacent to an Oregon recreation trail, funds indemnifying such owner for damage clearly caused to the land of the owner, and property therein, by users of such trail and which such landowner has not been able to recover from the user causing such damage. [1971 c.614 §12]

390.983 Trail property tax assessment. For ad valorem tax purposes, real property that is subject to an easement, or a written cooperative agreement, for purposes of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and 390.995 (2) shall be valued at its real market value, less any reduction in value caused by the easement or the written cooperative agreement, and assessed in accordance with ORS 308.232. The easement shall be exempt from assessment and taxation the same as any other property owned by the state. [1971 c.614 §13; 1981 c.804 §100; 1991 c.459 §395]

390.986 Injunctive relief for violation of ORS 390.950 to 390.989. The State Parks and Recreation Department has power to obtain injunctions against violations of any provisions of ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and any rules and regulations adopted under ORS 390.950 to 390.989 and agreements made under ORS 390.950 to 390.989. [1971 c.614 §14]

390.989 Eminent domain does not apply to department powers or duties under ORS 390.950 to 390.989. Any power of eminent domain otherwise vested in the State Parks and Recreation Department does not apply to any power or duty vested in the department by ORS 390.950 to 390.989. [1971 c.614 §16]