

I am writing in support of regional trails, and especially the Salmonberry Trail, as a priority for transportation planning. Besides their recreation value, these trails provide safe bicycle routes, off of highways shared with cars, and contribute to economic development. In bicycling the Corvallis to Coast trail twice, I have camped in a private RV park in Waldport and patronized several restaurants and a bike shop in Philomath, Waldport, and along highways 20 and 34. That's in addition to the economic benefit provided by building and maintaining the trails themselves. The Salmonberry Trail, traversing remote areas of the coast mountains, would be a unique destination that would attract bicyclists and hikers from all over the world. The coastal part of the trail will be an important alternative to Highway 101, as a section of the Oregon coast trail. It is important that the legislature support this trail in every way.