

Dear Committee Members, thank you for taking a minute to read this email.

I rarely reach out to make comments on subjects like these, trusting that the committees involved are looking at these issues and are going to make the right decisions. But concerning the Salmonberry Trail I would like to make a couple of observations to hopefully help you with these decisions.

I recently discovered the Western end of the Salmonberry Trail with my brother while researching our ancestry in the area of Nehalem, Oregon. We were both struck by the beauty and the expanse of this trail and how it winds through the canyons all the way Banks. We were not able to travel very far on the trail because of storm damage that has happened. When I got home I told my wife of our adventure and she told me that she had once explored the Salmonberry Trail from the eastern end near Banks.

I'm sure all of you realize the beauty and the legacy that we are preserving, passing down to generations to come here in Oregon, from our beaches to our mountains, and I believe that the Salmonberry Trail plays a critical role in that legacy. Taking these old railroad grades and turning them into hiking trails into our wilderness areas seems like a no-brainer.

I ask you to please support maintenance and improvement of this important legacy. I am looking forward to the day when we can travel this trail all the way from Banks to the beach. It's on my bucket list, and I hope it's on yours too!

Thank you,

Randall Schoonover
Sweet Home, Oregon