

#### 4-Trails Legislation

The long-awaited feasibility and suitability study for additional routes of the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California and Pony Express National Historic Trails (AKA the 4-Trails study) has been completed. Over a period of ten years, the National Park Service studied 77 routes. The study, transmitted to Congress in January 2020, recommends the addition of at least 26 routes (totaling 7,589 miles) to existing National Historic Trails.

The next step is for Congress to pass a National Historic Trail Designation Act officially adding the trails to the National Trails System. Currently OCTA is seeking Congressmen and Senators willing to introduce legislation to accomplish that. There is some urgency if we want to have the legislation introduced and passed during the current Congress, which ends in January 2021. It is not unusual for Designation bills to languish, so a trails champion needs to be found.

These are NOT new trails but are routes and segments that would be added to existing National Historic Trails. It would provide permanent protection and preservation for important trails in California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Legislation would add 13 routes and segments to the California National Historic Trail, 13 routes to the Oregon National Historic Trail, and two routes to the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail. (Three routes on the Pony Express were studied but determined not to be eligible.) The total length of the Oregon National Historic Trail would increase by 150 percent, while the California NHT would increase more than 50 percent. This is truly landmark legislation for the trails.

Benefits of proposed legislation:

1. Permanent preservation and recognition for more than 7,500 miles of historic trails and the heritage they represent.
2. Significant economic impact to the states due to increase Heritage Tourism.
3. Increased profile for the California, Oregon and Mormon Pioneer trails through publicity, signage, websites, and other opportunities.
4. The National Park Service will develop a Comprehensive Management Plan incorporating the new trails into existing NHTs.

This may come up in discussions with legislators: The legislation will include “willing seller” language barring the acquisition of land without the consent of the owner. (This is already part of the National Trails System Act.)

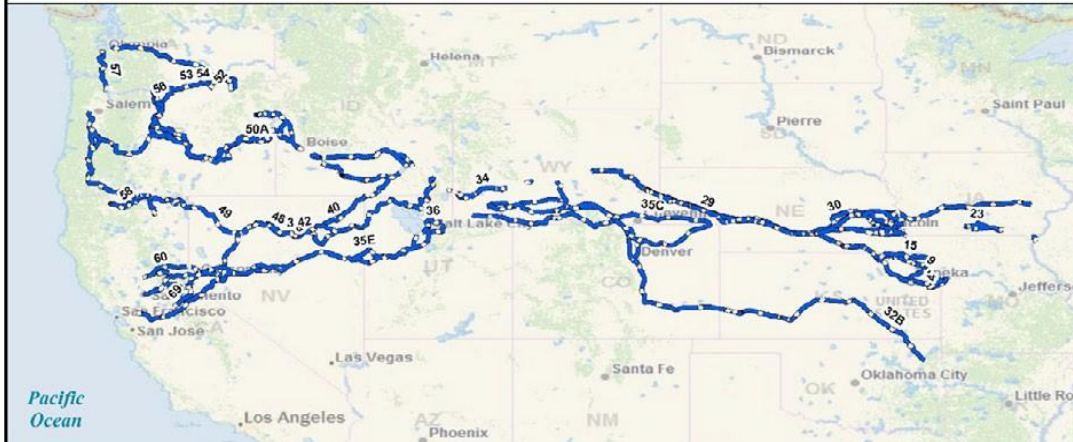
To read the complete feasibility study, people can be referred to the National Park Service Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website [parkplanning.nps.gov](http://parkplanning.nps.gov). The specific link to the document is <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=31277>

On the following pages is a list of trails being recommended and a map, as well as a chart showing the miles to be added to existing trails. Also included is a list of trails states Congressmen and Senators who sit on the committees most likely to hear the legislation, and a list of members of the House Trails Caucus. It is not essential that one of these legislators introduce the bill, but their support will be important. **Please do not ignore your homestate legislators who are supportive of trails, regardless of the committees on which they serve. The time to contact them is now!!**

<b>Route Name</b>	<b>OREG Miles Eligible</b>	<b>CALI Miles Eligible</b>	<b>MOPI Miles Eligible</b>	<b>Total Miles Eligible</b>
Westport Landing Rd.	4	4		9
Westport Rd.	37	37		74
Fort Leavenworth-Big Blue River Rt.		162		162
St. Joe Rd.	132			132
1846 Subsequent Routes A & B			119	119
Council Bluffs Rd.	653			653
1847 Alternative Elkhorn and Loup River Crossings			37	37
Cherokee Trail [Selected sections, Ok. to Wyo., plus 1850 Southern Rt. through Wyo.]		1315		1315
Sublette Cutoff	206			206
COER [Selected section, Lodgepole Creek Trail]		207		207
COER [Selected section, Simpson Rt.]		910		910
Weber Canyon Rt. of Hastings Cutoff		93		93
Bidwell-Bartleson Rt. <sup>1</sup>		995		995
Bishop Creek Rt.		20		20
Greenhorn Cutoff		14		14
Raft River to the Applegate Trail	547			547
Applegate Trail	825			825
Meek Cutoff [Hambleton]	453			453
Whitman Mission Route	89			89
Upper Columbia River Route	164			164
Umatilla River Rt.	118			118
Cutoff to Barlow Rd.	56			56
Cowlitz River Route	118			118
Yreka Trail		102		102
Hennes Pass Rt.		106		106
Big Trees Rd.		65		65
Totals	3403	4029	157	7589

## 26 Eligible Study Routes

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 04. Westport Landing Road   | 35C. Central Overland Emigrant Route - Lodgepole Creek Trail       | 52. Whitman Mission Route - Three variants              |
| 05. Westport Road   | 35E. Central Overland Emigrant Route - Simpson Route               | 53. Upper Columbia River Route                          |
| 09. Fort Leavenworth-Big Blue River Route                         | 36. Weber Canyon Route of the Hastings Cutoff                      | 54. Umatilla River Route & Columbia River to the Dalles |
| 15. St. Joe Road  | 39. Bidwell-Bartleson Route  | 56. Cutoff to the Barlow Road                           |
| 23. 1846 Subsequent Routes A and B                                | 40. Bishop Creek Cutoff (Bishop Creek Route)                       | 57. Cowlitz River Route                                 |
| 29. Council Bluffs Road   | 42. Greenhorn Cutoff   | 58. Yreka Trail   |
| 30. 1847 Alternative Elkhorn and Loup River Crossings in Nebraska | 45. Raft River to Applegate Trail                                  | 60. Henness Pass Route                                  |
| 328. Cherokee Trail - 1850 Southern Route                         | 49. Applegate Trail (Applegate Trail, or Southern Route to Oregon) | 69. Big Trees Road                                      |
| 34. Sublette Cutoff   | 50A. Meek Cutoff - Hambleton                                       |   |



## MILES OF TRAILS ELIGIBLE FOR DESIGNATION TO ONE OR MORE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

Parent National Historic Trail	Existing Mileage	New Miles Eligible for Designation	Total of Existing + Eligible Miles are	% Increase if all Eligible Designated
Oregon NHT	2,255	3,403	5,658	150.9%
Mormon Pioneer NHT	1,377	157	1,534	11.4%
California NHT	7,955	4,029	11,984	50.7%
Pony Express NHT	2,006	0	2,006	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,593</b>	<b>7,589</b>	<b>21,182</b>	<b>55.8%</b>

**Legislators from affected trails states in leadership positions:**

**House Natural Resources Committee**

<u>Democrats</u> Grace Napolitano, California Jim Costa, California Jared Huffman, California Alan Lowenthal, California TJ Cox, California Joe Neguse, Colorado Mike Levin, California Diana DeGette, Colorado Lacy Clay, Missouri Steven Horsford, Nevada	<u>Republicans</u> Rob Bishop, Utah, <i>Ranking Member</i> Doug Lamborn, Colorado Tom McClintock, California Paul Cook, California Liz Cheney, Wyoming John Curtis, Utah Kevin Hern, Oklahoma Russ Fulcher, Idaho
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**Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources**

<u>Republicans</u> John Barrasso, Wyoming Jim Risch, Idaho Mike Lee, Utah Cory Gardner, Colorado	<u>Democrats</u> Maria Cantwell, Washington Ron Wyden, Oregon Catherine Cortez Masto, Nevada
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**House Trails Caucus**

Earl Blumenauer, Oregon (co-chair) Jeff Fortenberry, Nebraska (co-chair) Julia Brownley, California Salud Carbajal, California Peter DeFazio, Oregon Suzan DelBene, Washington	Jared Huffman, California Zoe Lofgren, California Alan Lowenthal, California Jimmy Panetta, California Mike Simpson, Idaho Mike Thompson, California
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