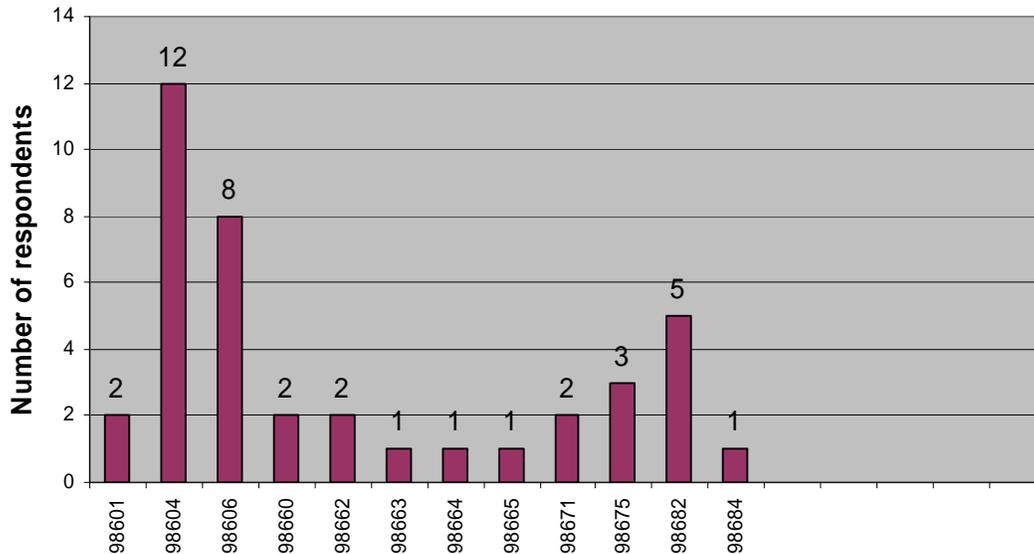


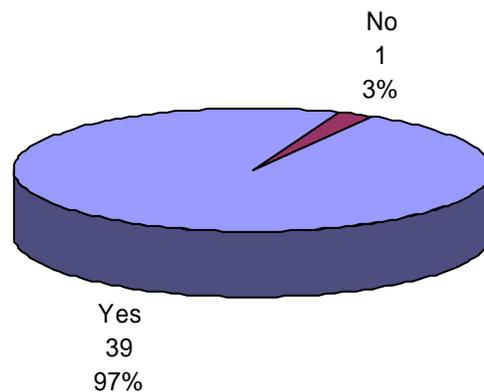
CHELATCHIE PRAIRIE RAIL/TRAIL PLAN

The proposed Chelatchie Railroad Trail extends 33 miles diagonally through Clark County from Burnt Bridge Creek at Fruit Valley Road to the site of an old paper mill a few miles from Yale Reservoir. Two evening open houses were held in Yacolt and Brush Prairie on October 2 and 4, 2007 to gather input from the public. The following is a summary of the comments received through October 2007.

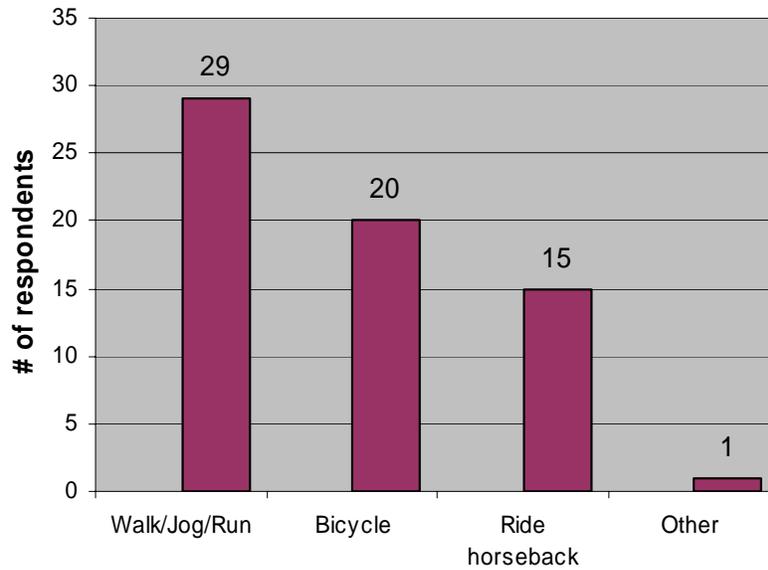
1. What is your zip code?



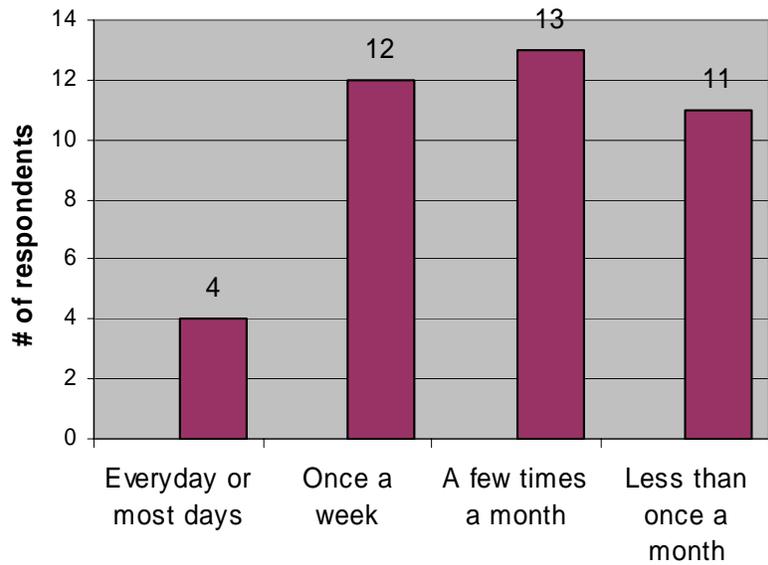
2. Do you use trails?



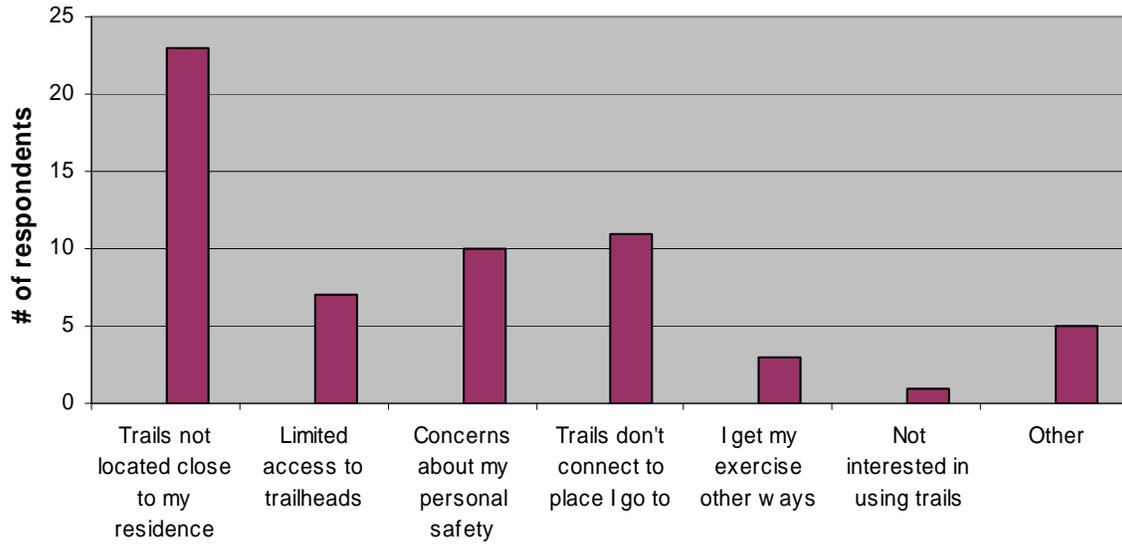
3. If yes, how do you use them?



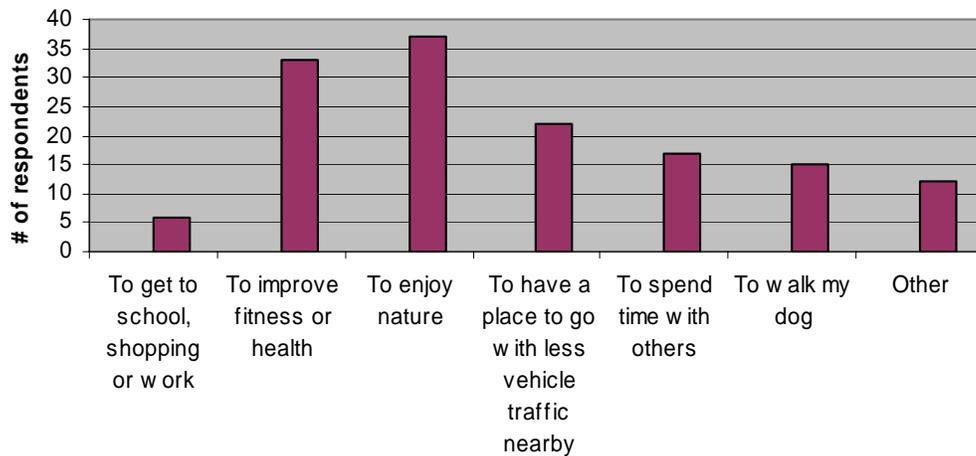
4. If yes, how often do you use trails?



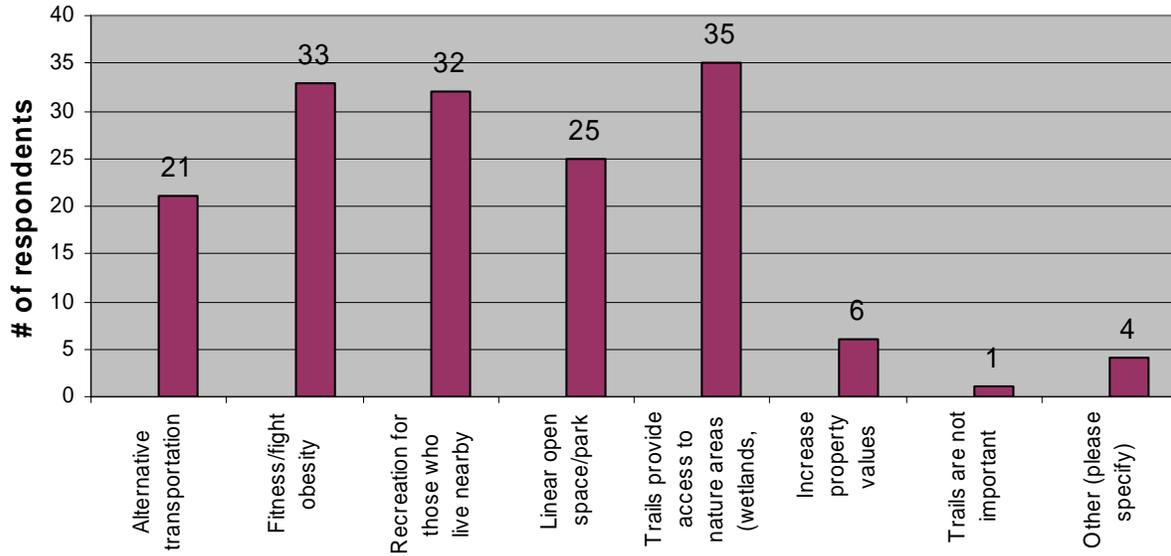
5. Which of the following limits your use of trails?



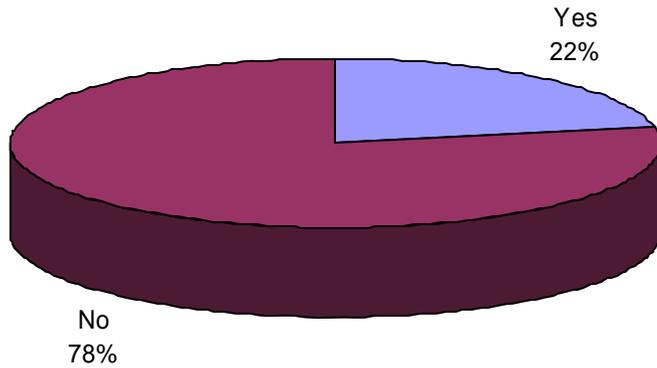
6. Why would you use a trail?



7. Why do you think trails are important?



8. Do you own property adjacent to the rail corridor?



9. Please describe any particular concerns related to the proposed alternative alignments as presented. Please explain:

Alignment

High banks south of track between miles 19-21 have had numerous mud slides since 1996. E. Fork of Lewis River steep bank below to the north.

Through Brush Prairie the southern alignment is in the location of lakesides proposed unloading area – also, trucks to the truck shop & loads of gravel will be crossing the trail. Also the Brush Prairie area is being considered as an industrial center for Clark Co. – this will cause a need to change of plans etc. Does this fit with the 99 year lease on the railroad?

Private property

My parent's home back up to a trail in Portland. They have a fence, but it has been broken into 2 times in the last 8 yrs. Also, there are trees along their property & people use them as toilets. If Lakeside Asphalt does not go in, what about making that property a park/rest area. We enjoy bike riding on the Spring Water trail & stopping at Gresham Main City Park for a picnic & use the facilities.

I hope the adjacent homeowners can be convinced of the positive value of the trail. Meeting the needs/wants of diverse potential trail users.

Rail transit

I love this idea & want to bike it. I also want the rails upgraded to handle more freight mid-day & heavy commuter rail at rush hour from Battle Ground to a Hazel Dell interchange with HCT (High Capacity Transit) over the interstate bridge/Columbia river.

Surface

It is important that the surface of the trail is friendly to horses. No hard top or have an alternate such as a soft top trail beside the hard top. Gravel: 5/8 minus or pea gravel.

Rock or dirt trails for horses. Don't do well on asphalt – could be shavings for joggers too.

Trail surface for biking: no gravel (suitable for road bikes)

User conflicts/Safety/Danger

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Safety – both related to RR & muggers, homeless people, illegal plant growth. Who is responsible for damage to fencing, cattle getting out etc.? Homeless already try to “camp” on private property – why make it easier for them?

Concern about fire.

I am very concerned about having horses, and bikes and people walking on the same trail. Will skate boarders and roller bladers also use it? This is a safety issue – who cleans up after the horses???

Bicycles move faster than walkers. I would hate to see the Discovery trail closed – also the trails are a magnet for drug trafficking.

Concern with trespassers – garbage – fire. I also have specific concerns that the trail could interfere with access to family property along the Amboy-Yacolt road. Concern that County would be required to condemn if they use the right of way for other than railroad purposes.

Crossings on busy streets.

Safety, busyness of trail users w/increased railroad activity.

Summer of 2006 – there was a homeless man camped out on property to the west of us. A young boy found him and reported it to father – father called police and he was taken away. This tent was located next to railway – this was a private 5-acre piece of property and we do not need more people camped out on private property – especially if they are sex offenders.

Be sure walking trails and horse trails do not interfere with passenger rail and freight rail improvement.

Wide enough for horses so they won't be afraid. Schedules of trains.

Concerned about horses on trail – fence barriers.

Equestrian

Horses play a large part in the Clark County economy. More horse trails and trailer parking are needed in the low areas connection different trails and areas. Brush Prairie to Chelatchie Prairie. From Hantwich we connect to the Rock Creek Silver Star area. From Chelatchie to Sioux and Mt. St. Helens.

I am concerned that the trails will not be appropriate for equine users.

General

Being able to get on and off the RR at places like (B.G.) – (BG Lake) – (Brush P.) – (Hidden Station 68 & St. Johns) and such (Heisson) (Vancouver)

I feel Burnt Bridge Creek trail should be used and improved, instead of railroad R.O.W. at south end. There is a wonderful I-5 crossing already there – would avoid 3 difficult roadway crossings (Hazel Dell Av, I-5, Hwy 99).

From spending considerable on roads along this trail I see the location of this trail be excellent. Might consider staying on the track area at the Moulton Falls area as well as the route to the falls.

Where will trailheads be located? Will trail accesses have restrooms, parking, water? How will other trails like Burnt Bridge & Salmon Cr. Connect to & feed into this trail? How will different user modes (walk, bike, horse) interact on trail?

1) In light of the fact the rail can't be pulled, the R.O.W. is not wide enough in all areas. 2) Allow horses where there is enough room. Priority should be given to bike/pedestrian traffic.

10. Are there any other comments that you would like to share with us?

Amenities

Bridge crossings need high rails & gage like protection. The approach to the bridges needs to be wider, also for safety. Road crossings are always a concern for horses.

Trail sufficient distance from track. Whistle on locomotive not too loud to scare horses.

I would like to see paved trail the entire distance (even if narrow) for road bike travel. We have walked & biked several "Rails to Trails" trails and have enjoyed them tremendously.

Lots of road crossings for a trail make it less useful than surface streets (the fewer the better).

Trail should be paved to encourage bicycle & ped usage. Pervious asphalt or concrete must be smooth – is costly to maintain (vacuuming). Gravel may be good for horses, but not good for bikes/peds. Who will clean up after the horses, anyway? They should be required to pack-out their own waste.

Equestrian

We would love to have trailheads where we could park horse trailers. We would like to start in Battle Ground.

As a member of Back Country Horsemen, we practice LNT (Leave No Trace) and do not leave horse manure in parking areas and would hope all other horse users practice the same.

Ideas for first phase

Build a good trail head by Hwy. 99 in Hazel Dell to allow bikes to connect to high density transit (with bike racks) going over the interstate bridge.

Concerns

Do not want anyone trespassing.

My daughter moved to Gresham because of the ideal Spring Water Trail similar to this project. They can NOT use the trail even on bikes unless there is a man with them. Drug addicts – criminals use these trails all day long. Unless you have emergency phones all along the trail every 20-25 ft. Very unsafe.

I believe that this is an exercise in futility. Mr. Temple is openly hostile to any activity that does not further enrich him. I believe that if anything does come of this it will be at tremendous expense to the taxpayer.

I declined to sell to the county a few years ago. My concern is that the county does not have the legal right to put a trail along the railroad right of way. The right of way would revert to adjacent owners if no longer used for railroad purposes – at least for those such as myself who did not sell their [can't read] interests to the county.

Clark County Sheriff patrols are already limited in N. County...in no way will they be able to patrol this facility.

How is this going to be patrolled? Who is going to pick up garbage? Who is going to repair damage to property such as – fences being damaged w/cattle inside – damage to plants – I am an avid gardener. We have a lovely yard – barn – farmhouse – we do not want this to be a public area – we bought at end of road for privacy – we like people – but do not like how most disrespect property of others. We work much too hard to have it destroyed.

Support

I am very excited to have a paved trail from BG Lake to BG city. The bigger picture seems a long way from happening, but a great possibility. The packed trail from Hantwich Trail Head to Moulton is a nice alternative to paving & can handle horses also. Thank you!

Keep moving forward & keeping us posted.

Good luck. It's a dream come true that the trail is even being considered!

Keep it up! Would love to see this happen.

This is an awesome idea for recreational activities for all ages. Outdoor fun for everyone!

Do it!! Left or right side, allow for a water line in the future alternative transportation this is cheap.

I'm excited to see this dream taking on some flesh. Other places I've been in the U.S. trails are a real positive in the community & people find living on a trail a selling point for their property.

I think it may be a good msg and a great point of interest for adjacent property owners that there may be fencing and other borders between the trail and their property. Thank you for all the great work on the trail!

Hope the project happens.

Trail area already looks inviting – I want to go ride.

Looking forward to being able to use this trail.

Other

Who patrols – Sheriff Dept already terribly short of personnel. Private property? They won't patrol trail – property purchased or eminent domain??

I am very much in favor of the trail development but am concerned that industrial development in & south of Brush Prairie will greatly hinder use and enjoyment of the trail. The county commissioners have plans for industrial development along the tracks. How healthy is that for breathing fumes from the RR engines? How will the RR traffic increase along the tracks over the years? How attractive will that industrial area be?!!

Volunteers

Our family would definitely use this trail. We would like to help in some way with the project. We are sorry we missed the open house on Oct. 4.

This is a great plan and I wish to help move the project along. How can I help?