

Hebo Ranger District
31525 Highway 22
Hebo, OR 97122

November 9, 2020

Dear neighbor,

As you may recall, during the summer of 2018 the Cascade Head Scenic Research Area (CHSRA) trails coordination team reached out to the public for input on trail and access issues in the Cascade Head area. This engagement helped the coordination team gain a better understanding of the area's challenges and potential solutions. In the time since this public outreach concluded, the team has been developing draft trail and access recommendations that will help improve recreation management at Cascade Head while respecting landowners' property rights. These draft recommendations are nearly complete, and ***we would like to invite you to give feedback through an online survey and a series of virtual dialog sessions.*** Local landowners are an important constituency for recreation planning in the Cascade Head area, and the team looks forward to hearing your feedback on its efforts thus far.

The coordination team has developed just over fifty recommendations pertaining to new and existing trails, trailheads, parking, camping, and disseminating public information. There are recommendations proposed for National Forest lands south of Neskowin, the Three Rocks Road area, The Cascade Head Preserve, the Fraser Road area, Lincoln City Open Space, and The Thumb area near Roads End. There are also a handful of "programmatic" items that would apply to recreation lands throughout CHSRA. The survey has been designed so that you can view all of the recommendations, or only the ones that pertain to your subarea of interest. In addition to the survey, the dialogue sessions will offer an opportunity to speak with coordination team members in real time.

The survey is located within the coordination team's project website at www.cascadeheadtrails.org, and it will be open from November 9 to December 9, 2020. Information on the dialogue sessions appears within the survey. Additionally, the project website allows visitors to download the preliminary proposal documents and view videos that explain the recommendations in more detail. If you have any questions or concerns outside of the survey, please contact Dan Miller, team facilitator, at Dan_Miller@nps.gov.

We recognize that some local landowners have recently shared their perspectives with the coordination team regarding trails and access issues in the Three Rocks Road area. These recent conversations might not be fully reflected in the recommendations as they appear in the survey; however, once the survey and dialogue sessions are complete, the coordination team will be carefully considering *all* the input it has received over the past several months. In addition to local landowners, other members of the general public will be invited to take the survey in early 2021.

Once the recommendations are reviewed by the public and finalized by the coordination team, they will be incorporated into a trail and access plan for CHSRA. Coordination team members will then work together to implement the recommendations in the plan. The plan will be a living blueprint rather than a static, binding decision document; subsequent changes may occur as recommendations are carried out, and additional project analyses will be required prior to implementing specific recommendations. Implementation will also be subject to funding

availability and each team member's internal policies. For example, the US Forest Service is required to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when planning and executing projects on federal land. We anticipate that implementation will occur over a number of years.

We recognize that you may also be new to the area, or perhaps you did not participate in the previous round of public engagement. With that in mind, here is some brief history on the recreation management issues in CHSRA and the trails coordination team:

CHSRA is a stunning natural landscape that highlights the ecology and scenic beauty of Oregon's north coast. It is also a home for many people and a recreational destination for many others. However, as you are doubtlessly aware, recreational use at CHSRA has been steadily increasing in recent years, and this has created challenges for recreation providers and landowners alike. These challenges include traffic congestion, illegally parked cars, trespass, damage to natural resources, and incidents requiring assistance from emergency responders. In response to these challenges, in 2018 a group of landowners within CHSRA convened a trails coordination team to collaboratively develop and implement solutions that would meet all parties' needs. There are many landowners and land managers within CHSRA, and the membership of the team reflects this variety. Core team members include: The US Forest Service, the Nature Conservancy, the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Cascade Head Ranch, Lincoln City, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Camp Westwind. Other landowners and local organizations have also contributed to the team in varying capacities over the past two years, including the Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Lincoln County Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.

Public engagement is a critical activity during any land management planning process, and the team recognizes that feedback from local landowners is especially important. The coordinating team has strived to develop recommendations that meet the needs of the land and the community; your input at this stage is essential for making sure we got it right! Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Siuslaw National Forest
Hebo Ranger District*

*Lincoln City Parks
& Recreation Department*

*Cascade Head
Ranch*

The Nature Conservancy

*Sitka Center for
Art & Ecology*

*Oregon Parks &
Recreation Department*

Camp Westwind