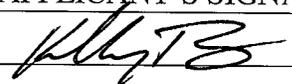


USDA. FOREST SERVICE  
 COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA  
 902 WASCO AVENUE, SUITE 200  
 HOOD RIVER, OR 97031

Telephone: 541-308-1700  
 Fax: 541-386-1916

## PROJECT REVIEW APPLICATION

DATE OF APPLICATION:                      DATE COMPLETE:                      30-DAY NOTICE REQUIRED

<b>APPLICANT(S)</b>			<b>PROPERTY OWNERS</b>		
US Army Corps of Engineers – The Dalles			Department of Army, US Army Corps of Engineers		
MAILING ADDRESS			MAILING ADDRESS		
PO Box 564			PO Box 564		
The Dalles, OR 97058			The Dalles, OR 97058		
APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE AND DATE			PROPERTY OWNER'S SIGNATURE AND DATE		
 <span style="font-size: 1.2em; vertical-align: middle;">10/11/11</span>					
PHONE: 541.506.7816			PHONE:		
E-MAIL: kelly.r.thomas@usace.army.mil			E-MAIL:		
<b>LOCATION OF PROPERTY</b>			<b>PROPERTY ADDRESS (IF APPLICABLE)</b>		
TOWNSHIP: T2N	RANGE: R14E	SECTION: 31			
QUARTER SECTION:		TAX LOT: 200			
PARCEL SIZE (ACRES):			COUNTY: Wasco		
EXISTING LAND USE: Recreation Trail			STATE: Oregon		

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Describe your proposed project, including details on structures to be built, location and types of utilities and infrastructure, drainfields, accessory buildings, ground leveling, and filling, or any other relevant activity or mitigation measures proposed. Use additional sheets as necessary:

**Proposal** – The proposed project is to remove portions of the railroad tracks from The Dalles Dam Visitor Center east towards Patterson Park located within the security fencing of The Dalles Dam. A section of railroad tracks were removed from behind The Dalles Dam Visitor Center and will be replaced with a ADA/ABA sidewalk that will allow for access from the Visitor Center to the current The Dalles Riverfront Trail. Another section of tracks will be removed from the east and west sides of the 15 Mile Creek Bridge to allow for the placement of vehicle barriers. The largest portion of railroad tracks removed was from Patterson Park west towards The Dalles Riverfront Trail (approximately ¼ mile west in distance). This portion of track removal made way for the construction of an additional

length for The Dalles Riverfront Trail to access Patterson Park, which is adjacent to the dam. The new portion of the trail would be new asphalt over the train track rock bed and adjacent to an existing paved access road. The trail will not only provide public access to public lands at Patterson Park but also provides access to tribal fishing platforms on the east side of 15 Mile Creek, a mandatory Corps requirement. Access for tribal members is a reserved right of the treaties of 1855 between the Columbia River Tribes and the US Government. The treaties were upheld in Supreme Court cases U.S. vs Winans.

**History and Current Use of the Trail and Railroad Tracks** – Constructed in 1907, the railroad tracks was originally owned by the railroad and used until The Dalles Dam was completed in 1957. During construction of the dam the railroad line was redirected south to its current location making the bridge for freight movement unnecessary. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took control of the tracks after the rail line was redirected in 1956 and it continues to be a Corps asset. The Corps managed a tour train from 1973 to 2001 that started at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center, crossed the 15-Mile Creek Bridge then traveled to The Dalles Dam carrying visitors to tour the dam and picnic at Patterson Park, which is adjacent to the Dam. In 2004 the train ceased operation due to maintenance concerns (safety), long-term operational issues, and cost. Through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) via mitigation measures preserving the history of train use at the site, train tracks that the tour train used were partially remove to make room for a rails-to-trails route that will also include use by a type of electric shuttle (battery operated mini bus or passenger cart) to once again carry passengers to tour the dam and picnic at Patterson park. The electric shuttle and rails-to-trails project is a joint effort between the city of The Dalles and the Corps with the Federal Transportation Administration providing a transit in parks grant to the city. Other partners include Mid-Columbia Economic Development District, Northern Wasco County Park & Recreation District, and The Dalles Chamber of Commerce.

The rails-to-trails path is part of a larger concept that created an 10-mile riverfront trail between the Dam on the east side of the city and The Columbia River Gorge Discovery Center & Wasco County Historical Museum on the outskirts of the west side of the city.

**The Concept** – When the railroad tracks are removed, construction of the new portion of The Dalles Riverfront Trail will begin. Along with the construction of the trail, vehicle barriers will be place for safety and sidewalk access to the trail will be constructed. It will also allow electric tram shuttle access from The Corps of Engineers Dalles Visitor Center to Corps Dam and Patterson Park. The public will be able to access the trail for recreation activities including walking, running or biking. Tribal fishermen will use the trail to access their fishing platforms located along the trail on the east side of 15 Mile Creek.

**Railroad Track/Trail Details:**

- Tracks built in 1907
- Ownership of tracks changed from railroad to Corps of Engineers in 1956
- Tour train deemed unsafe in 2004
- Original The Dalles Riverfront Trail built 1990s
- Approximately 3065 ft of rail and 1000 ties removed

**Current Condition of Trail and Railroad Tracks:** The portions of tracks behind the The Dalles Dam Visitor Center and near Patterson Park were removed by the Corps of Engineers during the winter of 2010/2011. The remainder of the tracks continue in their original location with the exception of approximately 75 feet of tracks on both the east and west side of 15 Mile Creek Bridge. Those tracks

will be replaced by vehicle barriers. The Dalles Riverfront Trail from 15 Mile Creek Bridge east toward The Dalles Dam is currently closed until safety improvements can be made to the bridge to allow for pedestrian access. Those improvements are scheduled to be completed by December of 2011 and access will be opened for public and tribal access.

Picture 1



Taken from just about the entrance to The Dalles – Celilo Canal Entrance. The trail will run around the curve to the southwest on the embankment above the water; pointed out by the yellow arrows.

Picture 2



Picture taken outside Administration Building towards the Southwest. Proposed trail marked by blue arrows.

Picture 3



Picture taken east of the project security fence towards the west. Proposed trail marked by purple arrows.



Picture taken from where the new proposed trail and the current trail would meet. Photo taken facing the east towards the Administration Office and Patterson Park. Current trail is marked by red arrow and the proposed trail is marked by green arrows.

Picture 5 is an overview map of the proposed trail that highlights the new and current trails. Also the corresponding color arrows match Pictures 1 – 4.

