

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners

Casey Garrett
Margaret Magruder
Kellie Jo Smith

Administration

Jacyn Normine
Kathy Coddington

Communications

Mark Pacheco



ST. HELENS, OR 97051

230 Strand Street
Direct (503) 397-4322
Fax (503) 366-7243
www.columbiacountyor.gov

October 17, 2025

To the Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee:

As the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners, we are pleased to support Oregon State Parks' application to the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) for essential repairs and improvements along the Banks–Vernonia State Trail (BV Trail).

This 21-mile paved, multi-use trail is one of Oregon's most iconic rail-to-trail conversions and a vital recreational resource. It offers scenic views, historic structures, and access to the communities of Vernonia, Buxton, Manning, and Banks, while strengthening regional connectivity. By linking to the Crown Z Trail, it creates a larger trail network that supports outdoor recreation, tourism, and local economic development.

Columbia County invested about \$175,000 to develop the Holce Trailhead, a key access point connecting the Crown Z Trail to the BV Trail. The remainder was funded through an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant, reflecting our shared commitment to high-quality public recreation spaces. Reconstructing the Wilson Bridge (MP 17.9) is critical to keeping the trail safe, accessible, and welcoming while preserving access, supporting local businesses, and expanding outdoor opportunities.

We strongly support this RTP funding request and urge its approval to ensure this important trail continues to serve and benefit communities across the region.

Respectfully,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Casey Garrett, Commissioner

Margaret Magruder, Commissioner