

# Breitenbush Collaborative Trail Considerations



Detroit Ranger District  
Willamette National Forest



# Current Conditions and Situation

- Trails of Primary Concern
  - Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
  - Breitenbush Gorge National Recreation Trail
  - South Breitenbush Trail
  - Breitenbush Community Trails
- Issues
  - Poorly routed trails with fall line construction, poor drainage, and failing/nonconforming structures

# Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

- Multiple trail segments with poor alignment and poor drainage
  - Mostly scouted for new alignment
- Next steps:
  - Identify possible funding/partnerships
  - Complete scouting and NEPA
  - Prioritize within watershed

# Breitenbush Gorge National Recreation Trail

- Substantial work has been accomplished to improve condition; more needed(drainage and bridges)
- Roaring Creek bridge is overdue for replacement
- Next Steps:
  - Identify possible funding/partnerships
  - Complete planning and NEPA for bridge replacement
  - Prioritize within watershed

# South Breitenbush Trail

- Approximately 4 miles of poorly aligned trail
  - Routing through sensitive meadows
  - Over-steep and undrainable sections
  - Some scouting completed
- Next steps:
  - Identify possible funding/partnerships
  - Complete planning and NEPA
  - Prioritize within watershed

# Breitenbush Community Trails

- Field trip with representatives from the Friends of the Breitenbush Cascades, Breitenbush Community, North Santiam Watershed Council and the Forest Service
  - Discussed the history of the trail system, issues with condition/maintenance, the long-term sustainability of the trail system, and opportunities to find partnerships and funding to accomplish needed maintenance

# Breitenbush Community Trails

- Observations:
  - Bridge structures are not engineered to FS specification and are opportunistic taking advantage of fallen trees to which railings are attached. As structures decay, new downed trees are found to use, and trails are constructed to new crossing location
  - Some trail segments are well out of FS trail design specification; grades exceeding 40% for extended distances
  - Insufficient trail drainage structures on some segments

# Breitenbush Community Trails

- Observations (cont'd)
  - Poorly routed trail segments through wet areas require boardwalk structures, puncheon, etc.
  - Community members have observed increased use of the trails in the area and have seen more publics hiking through the resort
    - Suggested possibility of trail around the resort on NFS land to tie loop opportunity



# Breitenbush Community Trails

- Opportunities
  - FBC has grant writer and access to funding sources; would be beneficial to have formal agreements in place on the area trails to access funds
  - FBC and BC have a lot of volunteers to help with maintenance

# Breitenbush Community Trails

- Next Steps:
  - Identify possible funding/partnerships
  - Develop trail plan for community trails
    - Determine appropriate trail classes/ management objectives
    - Identify needs to bring trails and structures to standard
    - Determine appropriate mechanism for long term management of system(i.e. agreement, special use permit, etc)
    - Utilize trail survey data to aid this process
  - Prioritize within watershed

