



Jana A Kirzhuber, M.D., Governor

Oregon Department of Transportation
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FILE CODE:

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Glenn Harrison
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Dear Mr. Harrison,

I am the Region Manager for ODOT's Region 3 which encompasses southwestern Oregon. Our agency Director Matt Garrett shared your letter of concern with me regarding consideration of the Applegate Trail in the Agency's design of a new climbing lane on Interstate 5 over Sexton Mountain. I wanted to get back to you regarding our work on the project associated with the Applegate Trail. In short, I want to assure you that ODOT has gone beyond our normal process in consideration of the trail in our design.

As you may know, ODOT is required to complete a survey of historical and archaeological resources on all construction projects. Because of the importance of the Applegate Trail and the fact that it is crossed at numerous locations by the interstate, we commissioned a separate survey and report just for the trail, in addition to the normal archaeological study conducted for the project. The trail survey was led by Chelsea Rose of the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology. In addition, we've been working with the Hugo Neighborhood Association, the local Applegate Trail interest group, since February 2010. The Association was actively involved with Ms. Rose in conducting the trail survey, as were the Southern Oregon Historical Society, the Josephine County Historical Society, the Douglas County Museum, and the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

More important than simply completing the survey, the results have shown that the current project, including the footprint of the new Sexton climbing lane, will not touch any portion of the trail. In addition, any locations where temporary construction activities could possibly encroach on the trail will be identified as "No Work Zones." While the current project only includes construction of the northbound climbing lane on Sexton Mountain, our surveys also included investigation of future climbing lane projects on southbound Sexton, as well as Smith Hill pass and Stage Road pass, located north of Sexton Mountain. Based on our surveys we know that some of those climbing lanes, particularly those on Smith Hill, may impact portions of the Applegate Trail, as well as other historical resources. As those projects are funded in the future we will consider impacts to all archaeological resources, including the trail, to determine how we can avoid or mitigate for them.

In conclusion, I hope this letter explains how ODOT has worked to locate and plan for the Applegate Trail relative to the interstate on the current project, as well as those that may be funded in the future. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,


Frank Reading

Cc: Matt Garrett, Director
Mark Usselman, Southwest Area Manager
Mark Leedom, Project Leader