

LETTERS

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are riddled with trails, this one has assumed undue importance. True, there is no existing paved trail. But walkers, runners, hikers, and trail bikers don't need pavement. Neither do the disabled; ADA doesn't require that accessible trails be paved. The Forest Service prefers that they not be.

From Janet Zeller, Forest Service national accessibility program manager, on AmericanTrails.org:

"It is accessibility integrated into the outdoors without changing the setting or the outdoor experience. We don't call them accessible trails, which make one think of flat and paved paths. Instead trails that comply with the accessibility guidelines look like other trails that blend into the setting, but with a sustainable firm, stable surface and, where the terrain allows, grades that provide easier passage."

A paved trail does not benefit walkers, runners, hikers, trail bikers, or the disabled, only those with road bikes — by no means justifying the expense and disruption. (A 10-foot-wide trail 7.6 miles long is over 400,000 square feet of asphalt — more than nine acres of it; eight paved football fields in the forest, and benefiting only one demographic.)

My view on this trail has evolved. Until recently I supported a paved trail on the north side of the highway. After further research, I've changed my mind. The existing Sisters Tie Trail goes from just north of the Sisters Forest Service Office to Indian Ford Campground. Designing and building a sustainable firm, stable surface from local materials on that existing trail would take users to a beautiful area; and to existing parking, toilets, picnic tables, maps, and trash receptacles

(facilities otherwise having to be provided by Black Butte Ranch). And it would connect to the entire Metolius basin network of roads and trails without a highway crossing.

JoEllyn Loehr



To the Editor:

Black Butte Ranch and the community of Sisters rely on one another. Ranch voters have consistently supported our local option levy for schools, because they understand that strong schools mean better property values. The Ranch is an important job creator, and Sisters youth supply summer labor that BBR can't do without. Sisters residents patronize Ranch restaurants in off seasons. And, of course, the resort is a key draw for visitors, most of whom spend money in our downtown businesses as well.

A bike path between BBR and Sisters would be an excellent new addition to our two, mutually dependent communities. With cycling tourism exploding, new recreation options that cater to people who bike are sure winners. And a bike trail is an amenity that doesn't require any water, a big plus considering the present drought and future water uncertainty.

I just visited Vancouver, BC, and can report that the Seawall bike path that encircles the entire city is among the most popular draws of the city's many attractions. This paved path was constructed on the seashore of Stanley Park, a forested park in the heart of the city. Despite daily, heavy use from dawn to sunset, the trail is free of litter and panhandlers. And there is a friendly spirit among users, all of whom share a mutual goal: get out of the car and enjoy the amazing scenery.

Let's build the trail.

Merry Ann Moore

Journey drummer ordered to treatment

SALEM (AP) — Journey drummer Deen Castronovo will have to wear an ankle monitoring device and go directly to drug treatment when he is released from jail as he awaits trial on rape and other felony charges.

Marion County Judge Thomas Hart issued the stipulations for Castronovo at a court hearing on Friday, KATU-TV reported.

Castronovo, 50, was arrested June 14 on misdemeanor assault and menacing charges, then released on bail and ordered not to contact the alleged victim. A grand jury later returned more serious charges, including rape. Castronovo was jailed again after authorities said he called and texted the woman with messages that included suicide threats and apologies.

In court on Friday, Castronovo blamed drug addiction for his actions and said they had cost him greatly. "Loss of my job. Loss of my freedom," he said.

The judge set bail at \$200,000. Castronovo likely won't be released from jail for treatment until Monday or Tuesday.

Castronovo's attorney expects him to remain in treatment until his trial in October.

In 2012, Castronovo was sentenced to 80 hours of community service and ordered to attend anger-management classes after an episode of domestic violence.

Castronovo has been with Journey since 1998, when he replaced Steve Smith — the drummer on the group's best-known songs, including "Don't Stop Believin'."

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