

# Oregonian hikes entire Oregon Trail

Martin pushed a covered wagon

By **ROLANDO HERNANDEZ**  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

After three months, over 2,400 miles and four pairs of shoes, one Oregon man's journey to hike the entirety of the Oregon Trail is complete.

Donald "Dundee" Martin began his hike back in April and started at Independence, Missouri. He originally thought the Oregon Trail was similar to treks he's made before on the Appalachian Trail, but soon realized their history and stories are very different.

"Something like 350,000 people made that trip over roughly 25 years," he said. "After it went out of use, it was almost immediately forgotten."

Martin, of Prineville, says he knows fewer than 10 people who have hiked the entirety of the trail in modern times. He says he wishes this wasn't true and believes more people should experience it.

"It's a natural route to take a long walk, to get away from your day-to-day life and to reflect on the people who went before you," he said.

Martin did not travel alone. Along with him, he brought a stuffed steer named "Last Ox" and a modernized version of a covered wagon to carry his supplies. He says this is probably the smallest covered wagon to travel the trail and perhaps the first wagon to make this journey in a very long time.

Martin also dressed in period clothing throughout the hike, though he wasn't initially planning on it.

"When I started this out, it was just a hike," he said, "But I kind of got into it."

Martin says that despite the clothing, wagon and stuffed ox, he does not consider himself a reenactor, but simply someone who is taking a hike.

"I'm kinda going out of my way again to draw a little bit of attention to the Oregon Trail along the way," he said.

The hardest part of the trail, according to Martin, was dealing with the changing weather. He faced strong winds, a number of thunderstorms, a couple of tornadoes and more recently, heat. He said despite all of this, there was one thing that kept him going: thinking of the people who made this journey before.

"Thousands and thousands of 8-year-olds did the same thing," said Martin. "And most of them did it in bare feet."



Donald Martin dressed in period clothing.



Donald Martin traveled over 2,400 miles with his wagon and steer companion named 'Last Ox.'



Donald Martin's modernized covered wagon.

## Feds seek public input for barred owl management plan

By **ROMAN BATTAGLIA**  
Jefferson Public Radio

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a plan to manage the invasive barred owl population on the West Coast.

The plan would help with recovery of spotted owl species.

The barred owl, native to the eastern United States, has slowly made its way to the Pacific over the last 100 years.

These invasive owls are encroaching on vulnerable spotted owl territory. Robin Bown, with the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the barred owl is more aggressive and can eat a wider variety of animals.

"So as they move into an area they can eject the spotted owls from that area

through competition," Bown said. "And because they can use a smaller area, it can be up to four pairs of barred owls in a single spotted owl territory."

Bown is helping to develop a management plan for the barred owl. A past study showed that northern spotted owl populations improved when barred owls were removed.

Bown said the plan will have to be extensive to cover the entire range of spotted owl species.

The agency is seeking input from the public as they develop the plan, including areas they might include or exclude, and alternative population control methods that could be effective.

A virtual public meeting will be held July 28 to answer questions. Bown expects the plan to be completed by the end of next year.



Nick Fisher/Oregon Public Broadcasting  
Barred owls have moved in and taken over spotted owl habitat in the forests of Oregon, and are now pushing spotted owls closer and closer to extinction.

The public can submit comments to help guide the plan through Aug. 22.

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