

PLAN

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Of those who responded, 72.8 percent of business owners supported the entire Elgin-to-Joseph project. Another 11.2 percent supported segments of the trail. Opposition accounted for 10.4 percent of the vote, and 5.6 percent had no comment.

Business owners who supported only segments mostly indicated that their approval went to the Joseph-to-Enterprise portion of the trail. The Enterprise-to-Lostine and Lostine-to-Minam portions also garnered substantial support.

The top two reasons given for support were that the trail would create a place for families and children to exercise while providing an amenity for

tourists that would give them reason to stay longer. Other benefits included connection of the communities in new ways, a place for seniors and disabled to walk, personal use for exercise and a safer route for commuting.

The top reasons for opposition included concerns over litter or damage to private property, concerns about maintenance and future funding, concerns about interruption or danger to agricultural operations and a desire to maintain roadless sections of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde rivers.

All concerns will be addressed as the plan moves forward, according to Terry Edvalson, Joseph Branch Trail Consortium Project Coordinator.

To that end, the Maintenance and Management

Committee, which is an independent citizens committee, continues to work with the Wallowa Union Railroad Authority (WURA) to advise on policy and procedures related to management and maintenance.

The WURA board confirmed last May that it would be responsible for the development and management of the trail and that it had submitted applications to the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (USFHA) for funding of the Joseph-to-Enterprise segment. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife also has offered the use of Marr Pond recreation area as a trailhead in Enterprise.

Representatives of the USFHA have since come out for a site tour, Edvalson said. "We still need to come up

with that match," Edvalson said. "We'll be providing an update on financing at an upcoming public meeting."

The Joseph Branch Trail Consortium oversaw the creation of a database of landowners with properties adjacent to the rail so as to keep them all in the loop, and has provided landowners multiple opportunities to discuss concerns. Those concerns serve as a basis for refining policies and principles within the management and maintenance plans, Edvalson said.

"We're looking at positive mitigation strategies in our discussions," said Edvalson. "That will be ongoing. You have to maintain good relationships with your neighbors."

Edvalson recently announced a workshop scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Oct.

25 at the Tomas Conference Room, 309 S. River Street in Enterprise. Attendees will hear a review of the Anderson Perry and Associates design engineering report, which includes a discussion of wetlands, environmental conditions and a recommended placement of the trail along the route between Joseph and Enterprise. An update on the financial situation also will be provided, and the draft management plan will be discussed with opportunities for public comment before the plan is presented to the WURA board.

The plans as they have progressed will be available for review online at www.jsephbranchtrail.org beginning Oct. 17, and hard copies will be placed at public libraries, city halls and county commissioners' offices.

GRANGE

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The 40-by-40-foot space that is finished is all well lit, newly floored, and free span, providing open space for dancing, dining or a wedding procession.

Saturday (Oct. 15) the building will host a "Welcome Home" harvest party with cider pressing, a potato bar and apple pie dessert, a book signing for Lostine resident Eileen Thiel's memoir "Seasons Silently Waiting," dance music by (Terri and Gary) Moffit Band, and plenty of conversation. Ask grangers about their plans for future events and you'll get an earful of great news.

The hall is open for rental, now, too. Call Scot Colony at 541-398-1828 for more information.

DRUGS

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That is not the only problem with felony convictions for drug offenses, said Keizer Police Chief John Teague, one of the signers of the statement.

"A number of the sheriffs and district attorneys gathered together with the Criminal Justice Commission and learned about the disproportionate ratio of minorities in Department of Correction facilities," Teague said. "It looked like a place where we could make a difference with first-time offenders."

This attempt to "make a difference" is part of an overall move in the justice system toward problem solving, Teague said.

That move toward problem solving rather than increased incarceration was a main driver for law enforcement agencies to come together to discuss and recommend new sentencing that expresses a "more thoughtful approach to drug possession when it is the only crime committed," Teague said.

Oregon's sheriffs and chiefs of police were careful to qualify their recommendations by specifying that the knockdown to a misdemeanor charge would be available only to persons with user-amount convictions. Larger quantities would still be considered a felony under the recommendations. Furthermore,

they emphasized the necessity for careful assessment and individualized, mandated treatment as a condition of the lower conviction.

Let the legislature gut recidivism programs already in existence, the chiefs and sheriffs also make it clear that there should be no "savings" through reductions in Community Corrections funding. Access to drug court or other accountability tools also are considered essential.

"We must be clear," the statement reads. "It is imperative that mandated assessments and treatment services accompany this change in drug-crime policy so that individual risks and needs can be identified and addressed."

Wallowa County is in a better position than many counties with regard to "accountability tools" in that it has oversight of misdemeanor cases. Parole Officer Kyle Hacker has agreed with local judges to take some of those on, according to Wallowa County Sheriff Steve Rogers.

However, many counties do not have such an arrangement.

"What this means statewide is we'll have all those misdemeanor drug users un-

supervised," Rogers said. "I think if this happens you'll see street crime go way up."

His major concern, however, is that offenders who have no intention of going straight will be free to own firearms once their probation ends, since they were not charged with a felony.

"I'm totally opposed to letting people own guns who are not of sound mind," Rogers said.

These are exactly the kind of comments that Teague hopes sheriffs and chiefs will bring to a work group that will be established as crafting of the potential new regulations

moves forward.

"There is no heated debate about whether it is the right thing to do," Teague said. "(However) chiefs and sheriffs wanted to have a hand in what this law will look like."

Rogers looks at his email and reads some pretty warm comments from other sheriffs, but is so far holding his fire.

"This thing will get jock-

eyed around, changed and moved a dozen times before it becomes law," he said.

And although he has not

weighed in on the subject, Rogers guarantees that he will if he doesn't agree with the decisions made.

M. C R O W & C O.



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Domestic and Sexual Violence Service Providers

October Domestic Violence Awareness Month



What is Domestic Violence ?

Domestic Violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Who Does Domestic Violence Hurt?

Domestic violence is prevalent in every community and affects all people regardless of age, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. The devastating consequences of Domestic Violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

Witnessing Violence always has an impact on children.

70% of offenders in treatment for domestic violence witnessed it as a child.



80% of runaways come from homes where domestic violence occurs.

Studies show that 3-4 million children between the ages of 3-17 are at risk of exposure to domestic violence each year.

Witnessing can mean **SEEING** actual incidents of physical/and or sexual abuse. It can mean **HEARING** threats or fighting noises from another room. Children may also **OBSERVE** the aftermath of physical abuse such as blood, bruises, tears, torn clothing, and broken items. Finally children may be **AWARE** of the tension in the home such as their mother's fearfulness when the abuser's car pulls into the driveway.



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