



Appendix I:  
Trails & Trailhead Amenities  
Opportunities and Constraints



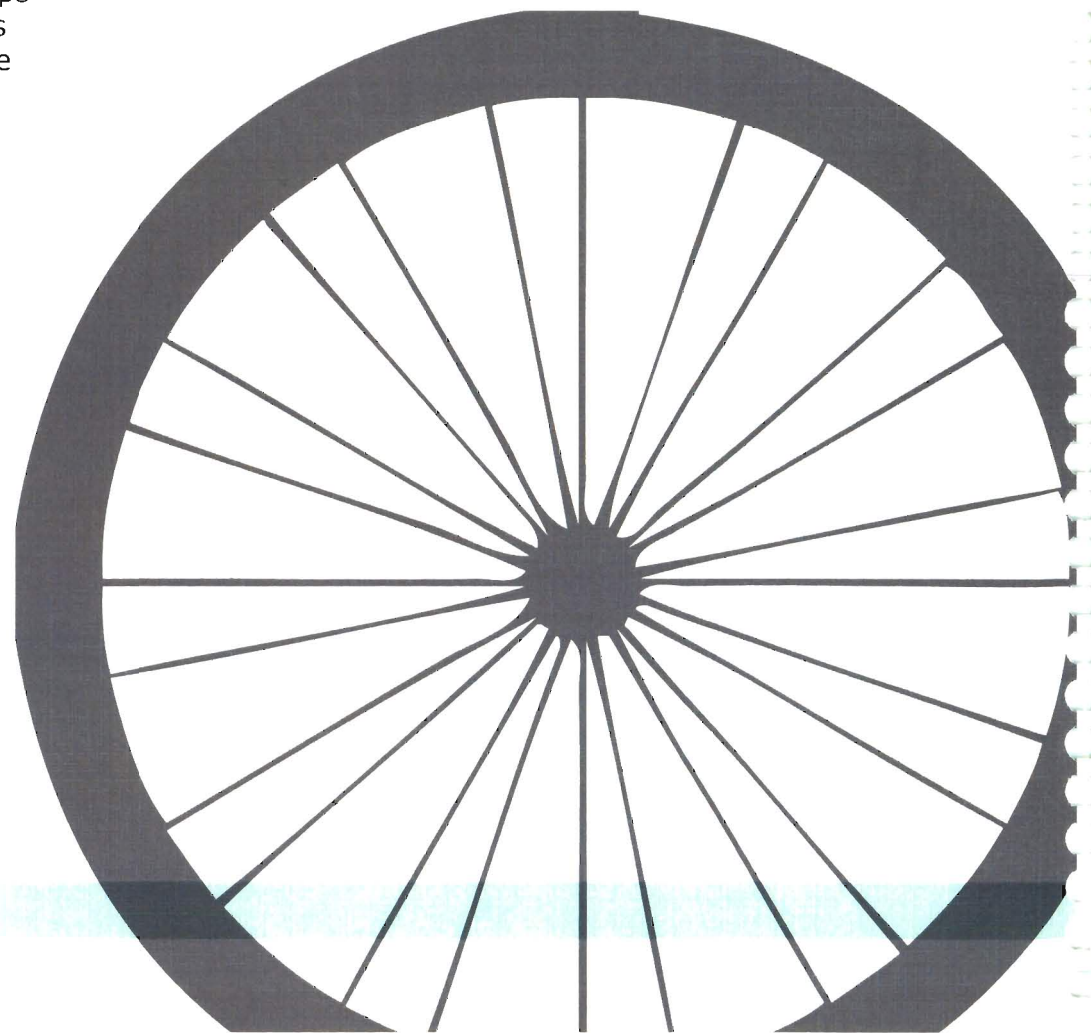


# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

**I**n Chapter 5, Celilo Planning Studio identified the recommendations for the Trail Hub at Overlook Park and the six recreational nodes: 1.) Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail 2.) Pacific Crest Trail at Bridge of the Gods 3.) Future CLIMB Trailhead at SW Moody Avenue 4.) Marine Park 5.) Industrial Park and 6.) Herman Creek Trailhead. These recommendations were based on multiple site visits, the trail user survey (Appendix C), the community survey (Appendix D), the two workshops (Appendix E), the open house (Appendix F), interviews with the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (Appendix G) and meetings with the members of the community.

From these sources, Celilo Planning Studio developed a list of opportunities and constraints for the Trail Hub and each of the recreational nodes. The most important opportunities and constraints are discussed in this appendix.

The Trail Hub Model and map are included for reference.

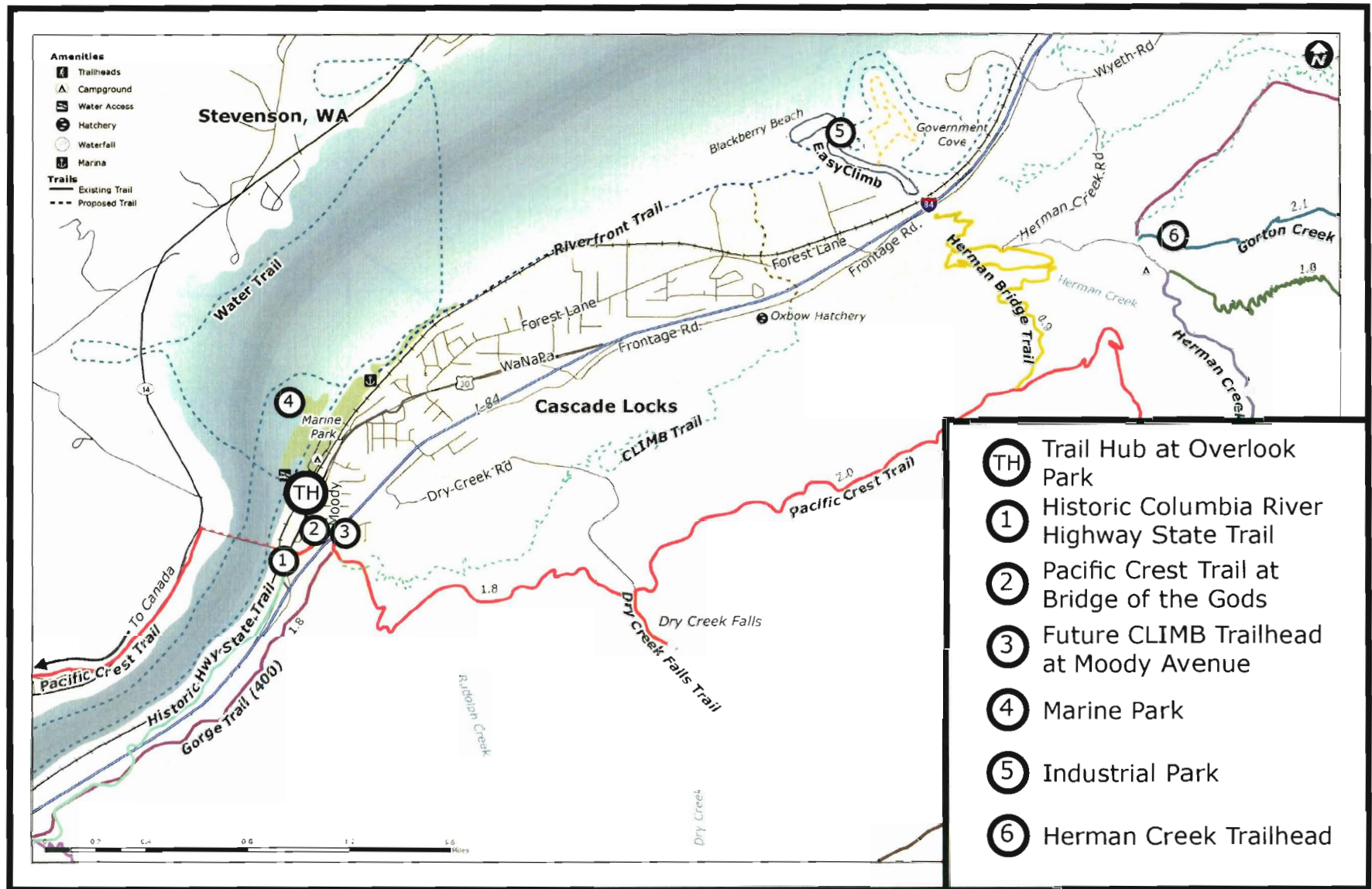


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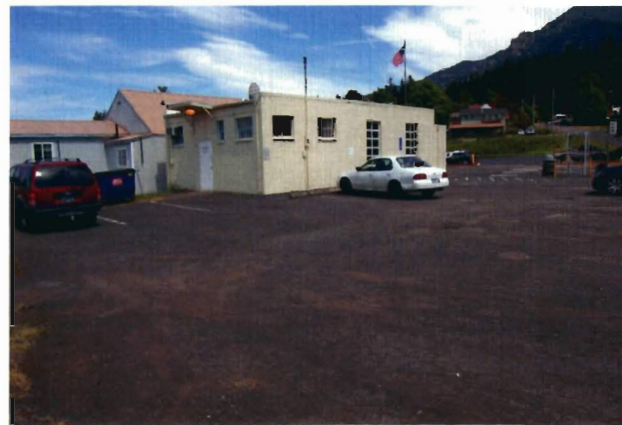
## Trail Hub at Overlook Park

Because of its central location, stunning vistas, existing amenities (seating and a kiosk), and current public land ownership, Celilo Planning Studio recommends the Overlook Park as the preferred location for the trail hub.

The park currently has outdoor seating, planters, bike parking and a kiosk. Currently, there is no public restroom or garbage cans.



Overlook Park is located in the center of town, right across the street from the grocery store and next to the post office. It is also a short walk from the PCT and HCRH trailheads. It has a beautiful view of the Gorge.



Overlook Park is adjacent to a small parking lot, which it shares with the post office.

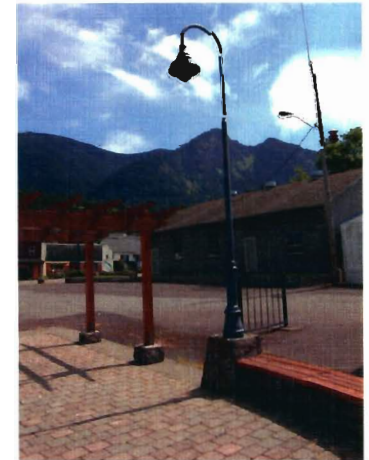


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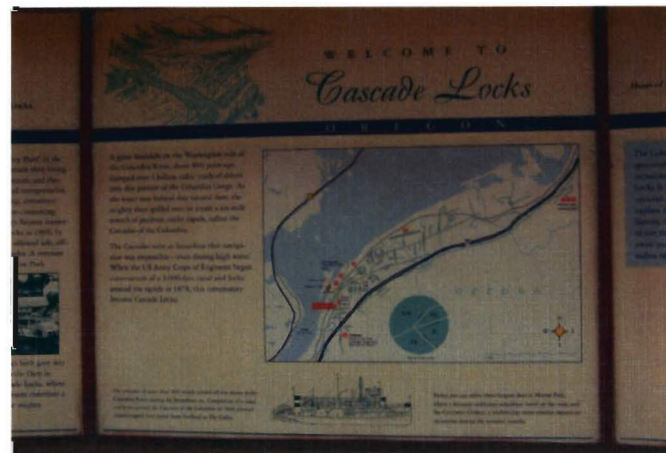
## Trail Hub at Overlook Park



It is important to celebrate and memorialize community efforts, such as with permanent plaques.



The existing kiosk holds historical information about Cascade Locks, as well as a map of downtown which includes outdated trailhead information. The HCRH trailhead and the new Industrial Park recreation complex are not included in the map.



The lighting at the Overlook park makes the park feel more secure in the evenings.

# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 1. Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

As new sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail (HCRH) open, more visitors will likely visit the existing trailhead under the Bridge of the Gods. The trailhead already has numerous features that create a welcoming environment:

a kiosk, water fountain, and beautiful vistas. Additional features, such as a welcome sign, wayfinding, and public art will make the trailhead even more welcoming.



The trailhead has an existing interpretive sign that informs visitors and communicates the history of the community.

The trail should have a "passport program" in which children and their families can collect stamps along the way. This adds to the enjoyment of the trail and helps market the trail.



The trailhead has some of the most beautiful views in Cascade Locks. Several signs direct trail users on to the path.



# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 1. Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

The site has a water fountain but lacks restroom facilities. Signs directing visitors to downtown and the restroom at Toll House Park are needed.



The kiosk at the trailhead could provide directions for bikers and hikers to business and public amenity locations in town. A map of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail and other trails in the area will help visitors orient themselves and discover new trails. The kiosk should also stock tourism brochures.



The site is partially landscaped and in need of public seating where visitors can relax and enjoy the views.



Although the trailhead has a bike rack, it is not immediately recognizable as such. Also, it is not clearly visible, located behind the bridge stem.

This rack could be relocated to a more visible location near the trailhead or in town.



# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

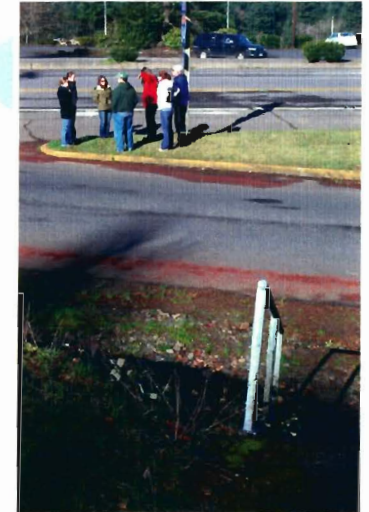
## 2. Pacific Crest Trail at Bridge of the Gods

The PCT Trailhead at the Bridge of the Gods welcomes many hikers to the first city they have seen in days. The trailhead has restroom facilities and an information kiosk but lacks wayfinding, picnic tables and business information. The pedestrian access to downtown is poor.



PCT hikers come off the trail and immediately face an uninviting intersection with high traffic volumes. Not all pedestrian crossings feature crosswalks, and the crosswalk spanning WaNaPa should be improved to slow traffic coming from I-84. The City and the Port should work with ODOT to improve this intersection.

Although a path with stairs leads down from the Bridge of the Gods and the PCT trailhead, pedestrians are trapped in an island without crosswalks across WaNaPa.



Although the area features sidewalks, many of these areas are not safe for pedestrians as shown by the semi tracks. This is uninviting to the thousands of hikers who use this trailhead every year.





# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 2. Pacific Crest Trail at Bridge of the Gods



Despite the high vehicle traffic volumes there is no marked crosswalk for hikers to enter or exit the trail. For many hikers, this is the first time they enter Cascade Locks. The TCG, the Port, and the City should work with ODOT to make this point as inviting as possible. More signage warning drivers of pedestrians and a crosswalk should be considered.

The view from the Bridge is breathtaking and could be a regional tourism attraction that offers a unique experience to walk between two states or view the Columbia River from above. Currently, crossing the bridge is a scary experience. A designated crossing space for hikers, bikers, and equestrians is needed to make all visitors feel safe.



The trailhead offers restrooms and parking, but both are only open during the summer months. There is enough space for a picnic table under the shelter. Hikers could stop and eat under the shelter when it rains.





# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 2. Pacific Crest Trail at Bridge of the Gods



The trailhead has two information kiosks. These kiosks should have information about the trail and the businesses in Cascade Locks. The sign should also feature a map of the trails.

When first stepping off the trail there is no signage welcoming hikers to town. This "Do Not Enter" sign is the only visible sign. The parking area looks poorly maintained.



The trailhead has open space that makes for a great picnic table location where hikers can rest.





# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 3. Future CLIMB Trailhead at SW Moody Avenue



Though the CLIMB Trail has not yet been constructed, this trailhead currently serves as an access point to the Pacific Crest Trail and the Gorge Trail #400. This trailhead has great potential. It already has wayfinding signs and is close to the center of town. Bikers can enjoy the downtown amenities after a long ride.

The trailhead is along a gravel road. More should be done to designate this area as a trailhead once CLIMB trail is constructed, including the addition of an information kiosk and benches.



Government agencies have provided clear, attractive signage, directing hikers (and eventually bikers) to trails and downtown Cascade Locks. Graffiti and theft are ongoing challenges.



Trash piled up at the trailhead and remained for months before someone cleaned it up. The Trail Care Group should host more frequent clean ups.

Trail users currently park along the gravel road. A small, designated parking area will be necessary once the CLIMB trail is built. Overflow parking is available at the Marine Park and downtown. Wayfinding should be placed to guide bikers to trailhead. This ride could serve as a warm up to the more challenging workout on the path.



# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 4. Marine Park

The Marine Park is a source of pride for many of the residents. As evidenced by the 2001 Comprehensive Plan and the *Connect Cascade Locks* public process, many residents hope to see a riverfront trail. This multi-use trail could run from the Marine Park to the Industrial Park.

The Marine Park has ample parking and beautiful views of the Gorge and Bridge of the Gods.



The park has many picnic tables and benches for visitors.



The welcome sign is both attractive and functional.



Wayfinding signage helps first time visitors find their destination.



The park is well maintained and provides plenty of open space. The Port should allow camping on Thunder Island during more events in the summer.

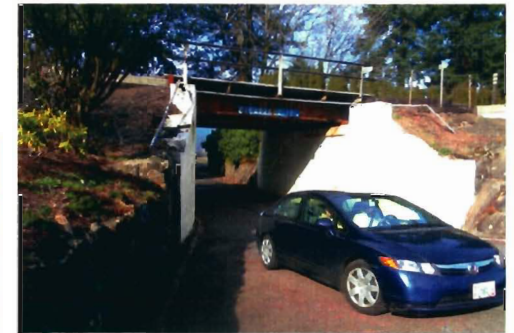


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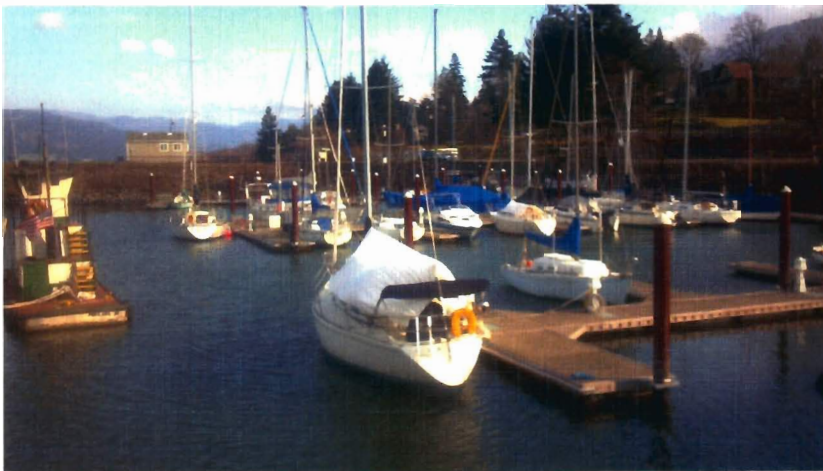
## 4. Marine Park



Interpretive signs and information kiosks explain more about the history of the park and information about the area. The Trail Care Group should clean these signs.

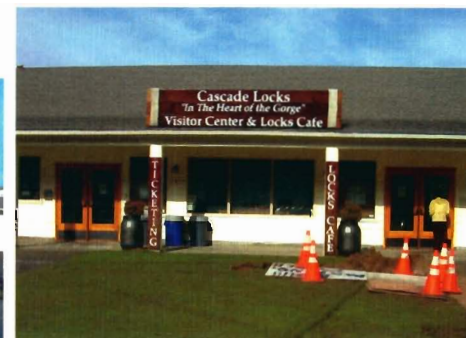


Access to the Marine Park is a challenge for visitors. The narrow underpass makes for a hazardous environment, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists. This is the greatest challenge to one of the community's greatest assets.



The park features a pleasant marina and visitor center. The park is filled with visitors during the summer months, many of whom enjoy the world class sailing Cascade Locks offers.

The park has statues that enhance the aesthetics and educate visitors about the history of the Gorge.



There are opportunities for developing a riverfront trail similar to Astoria and The Dalles.



# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 5. Industrial Park

The undeveloped Industrial Park could serve multiple recreational activities, including hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, and wind and water sports. Cyclocross events could be held in the shoulder season. Bicycle and pedestrian access should be improved on Forest Lane and Frontage Road to ensure recreational users have access to trail and downtown businesses.

Volunteers for the Northwest Trail Alliance built the two-mile Easy CLIMB Trail. They have also helped advertise the trail on their listserv and relocated a kiosk to trailhead.



Blackberry Beach provides access for wind sport enthusiasts. The area should be developed in the future to provide better river access.



Trash is found in many areas of the Industrial Park. The Trail Care Group should help keep the park clean.



This kiosk should have trail and business information.

Bicyclists may arrive in the park from either downtown or from the future CLIMB trailhead on Frontage Road. Both Frontage Road and Forest Lane should have improved bicycle infrastructure to improve bicycle connectivity and safety.



# TRAILS & TRAILHEAD AMENITIES OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS

## 6. Herman Creek Trailhead

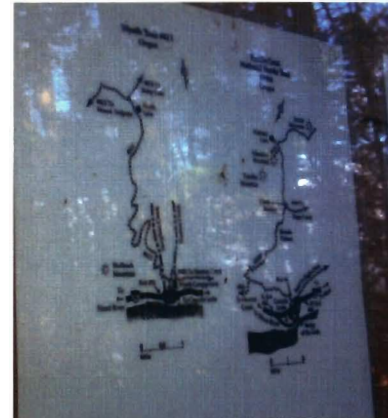
Herman Creek, an equestrian campground and USFS trailhead, is one of the most popular trailheads in the Columbia River Gorge. It features an information kiosk, horse camping, parking, and an information kiosk.



Herman Creek has an existing kiosk with trail information.



The trail has excellent wayfinding signs. Theft and vandalism are common problems with these signs, however.



The kiosk has a map of the trail. This map could be improved to show other trail connections and geographic information, but any new map will have to undergo design review with the USFS.



One of the trailhead's existing assets is a restroom facility maintained by USFS.