

# FOUR TRAILS FEASIBILITY STUDY

NACHES PASS TRAIL COALITION

The Meeker Mansion

February 29, 2020

# FOUR TRAILS FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Study for possible inclusion of a trail in an existing National Historic Trail (Trails Act 1968)
  - Oregon Trail
  - California Trail
  - Mormon Pioneer Trail
  - Pony Express Trail
- Process began in 1998
  - 77 study routes in 13 states
  - 12 in Washington and Oregon
  - 26 qualified

# STUDY FINDINGS (ID, WA, AND OR)

|   |       |             |                     |
|---|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| Goodale's Cutoff                              | N-11A | ID          |                     |
| Goodale's North Route                         | N-11A | ID          |                     |
| North Alternate Oregon Trail                  | N-11A | ID          |                     |
| North Side Alternate                          | N-11A | ID          |                     |
| Olds Ferry Road                               | N-11A | ID          |                     |
| Free Emigrant Road                            | N-11A | OR          |                     |
| Meek Cutoff (Ragen)                           | N-11A | OR          |                     |
| Naches Pass Trail                             | N-11A | WA          |                     |
| Raft River to Applegate                       | Y     | ID          |                     |
| Applegate/Southern Route                      | Y     | ID-NV-CA-OR | Add to Oregon Trail |
| Cutoff to the Barlow Road                     | Y     | OR          |                     |
| Meek Cutoff (Hambleton)                       | Y     | OR          |                     |
| Umatilla River Route                          | Y     | OR          |                     |
| Upper Columbia Route                          | Y     | OR          |                     |
| Cowlitz River Route                           | Y     | WA          |                     |
| Whitman Mission Route                         | Y     | WA          |                     |
| N-11A Lacks historic significance (1841-1848) |       |             |                     |

See Table 14, p.48-p.49, "Four Trails Feasibility Study" for complete findings.

# CRITERION 11A - HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- Period of significance
  - Oregon Trail: 1841-1848
  - California Trail: 1841-1869
  - Mormon Pioneer: Trail 1846-1847
  - Pony Express Trail: 1860-1861
- Rationale from legislation

“To simplify future route markings and public information”

# EMIGRANT USE (JOHN D. UNRUH)

| Year   | Oregon | California | WC Total | Cum WC  | Utah   | CumUtah | GrTotal |
|--------|--------|------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| 1840   | 13     | 0          | 13       | 13      |        | 0       | 13      |
| 1841   | 24     | 34         | 58       | 71      |        | 0       | 71      |
| 1842   | 125    | 0          | 125      | 196     |        | 0       | 196     |
| 1843   | 875    | 38         | 913      | 1,109   |        | 0       | 1,109   |
| 1844   | 1,475  | 53         | 1,528    | 2,637   |        | 0       | 2,637   |
| 1845   | 2,500  | 260        | 2,760    | 5,397   |        | 0       | 5,397   |
| 1846   | 1,200  | 1,500      | 2,700    | 8,097   |        | 0       | 8,097   |
| 1847   | 4,000  | 450        | 4,450    | 12,547  | 2,200  | 2,200   | 14,747  |
| 1848   | 1,300  | 400        | 1,700    | 14,247  | 2,400  | 4,600   | 18,847  |
| 1849   | 450    | 25,000     | 25,450   | 39,697  | 1,500  | 6,100   | 45,797  |
| 1850   | 6,000  | 44,000     | 50,000   | 89,697  | 2,500  | 8,600   | 98,297  |
| 1851   | 3,600  | 1,100      | 4,700    | 94,397  | 1,500  | 10,100  | 104,497 |
| 1852   | 10,000 | 50,000     | 60,000   | 154,397 | 10,000 | 20,100  | 174,497 |
| 1853   | 7,500  | 20,000     | 27,500   | 181,897 | 8,000  | 28,100  | 209,997 |
| 1854   | 6,000  | 12,000     | 18,000   | 199,897 | 3,167  | 31,267  | 231,164 |
| 1855   | 500    | 1,500      | 2,000    | 201,897 | 4,684  | 35,951  | 237,848 |
| 1856   | 1,000  | 8,000      | 9,000    | 210,897 | 2,400  | 38,351  | 249,248 |
| 1857   | 1,500  | 4,000      | 5,500    | 216,397 | 1,300  | 39,651  | 256,048 |
| 1858   | 1,500  | 6,000      | 7,500    | 223,897 | 150    | 39,801  | 263,698 |
| 1859   | 2,000  | 17,000     | 19,000   | 242,897 | 1,431  | 41,232  | 284,129 |
| 1860   | 1,500  | 9,000      | 10,500   | 253,397 | 1,630  | 42,862  | 296,259 |
| Totals | 53,062 | 200,335    | 253,397  |         | 42,862 |         |         |

# EMIGRANT USE

|   | Oregon                             | California |   |  |  |  |     |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|---|--|--|--|-----|
| 1840-1848   | 11,512                             | 2,735      |   |  |  |  |     |
| 1849-1860   | 41,550                             | 197,600    | Percent of overland emigrants to Oregon after 1848: |  |  |  | 78% |
|   | 53,062                             | 200,335    |   |  |  |  |     |
| John D. Unruh, Jr., "The Plains Across - The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West, 1840-1860." |                                    |            |   |  |  |  |     |
|   | University of Illinois Press, 1993 |            |   |  |  |  |     |

Those persons emigrating after 1848 (78% of total) are historically insignificant.

# POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- Ask legislators to add Naches Pass Trail and other trails excluded under Criteria 11A.
- Ask NPS to re-evaluate trails with a more realistic Criteria 11A.
  - Would probably require recall of current document.
  - Modification of Trails Act?
- Form a new historic trail initiative (NPT alone).