

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-35

A resolution regarding the preservation, maintenance and improvement of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail.

WHEREAS, the John Wayne Pioneer Trail is a 300 mile long stretch of former railway roadbed that goes from the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains to the Idaho border, and is the longest rail trail in the United States;

WHEREAS, in 2002 the trail was designated a National Recreational Trail by the federal government;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Parks Department and Washington State Department of Natural Resources own the land the trail sits on; and

WHEREAS, adjacent landowners have brought forward concerns regarding ongoing maintenance of the trail;

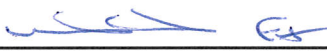
WHEREAS, the trail, which runs near and within the City of Ellensburg, is used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders, including the John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders Association for their annual "Ride Across Washington" event;

WHEREAS, there has been recent discussions of closing a portion of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail east of the Columbia River; and


WHEREAS, the closure of the trail would decrease recreational opportunities for citizens of Ellensburg and the surrounding area, and would also have a detrimental financial impact on the City of Ellensburg by eliminating this tourism attraction;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG, WASHINGTON, DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS: that the City of Ellensburg expresses its support for the preservation of the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, as well as the allocation of additional state resources for the maintenance and improvement of the trail east of the Columbia River.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Ellensburg this 21st day of December, 2015.

  
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Mayor

Attest:

  
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City Clerk