



The 2024 Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit continues to bring together two of Oregon's premier outdoor recreation events: the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit & Oregon Trails Summit. The summit combines fun and high-impact in-person networking opportunities with conference programming on the important issues of the day, educational content, trails stewardship work parties, and in-field tours and workshops. The summit will convene Oregon's diverse outdoor community to learn, build relationships, and find solutions to the challenges in developing and elevating outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

Thursday, December 5

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM [Creating Sustainable Outdoor Recreation for People with Disabilities](#)

Speakers: Leah Persichilli, Pat Addabbo

Since 1996, Oregon Adaptive Sports has served thousands of individuals with disabilities through tens of thousands of outdoor experiences. OAS will share our past experience and our future vision of continuing to create high-quality outdoor experiences for people with disabilities. We will explore the barriers to outdoor recreation that people with disabilities face, and the 5 Pillars of Access that break down those barriers. The workshop will be held at the OAS Headquarters in Bend, where participants will have the opportunity to tour the space, ask questions, and interface with state-of-the-art adaptive equipment. Space is limited and advance registration for this field workshop is required. Learning Outcomes:

1. Attendees will learn about the OAS Pillars of Access which are key to providing safe and successful instruction for individuals with disabilities in sports such as skiing and mountain biking.
2. Attendees will learn how participating in programs like OAS foster an enhanced sense of belonging.
3. Attendees will learn about how programs like OAS provide the key ingredients of happiness, enjoyment, satisfaction, and meaning for athletes, volunteers and all who engage in the program.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Commit to Planet Inclusion and Adventure: The Outdoorist Oath Workshop](#)

Speakers: Gabaccia Moreno, Hanna Anderson, Maya Sullivan

The Oath was formed as a way to provide an educational framework for individuals to be able to investigate questions like; how can I be a better steward of the landscapes I recreate in? How can I play a part in making the outdoors feel more inclusive to all individuals? In what ways does my everyday life support the protection of wild places for years to come? We believe that by giving people the tools to reflect on their impact in the world, we can create a new wave of outdoorists that are committed to creating a healthier and better outdoors. Learning Outcomes:

1. The current matters of Planet, Inclusion and Adventure and WHY taking action is important.
2. How you are uniquely positioned to take action in support of PIA
3. How to look for lessons from nature, wayfinding for systemic change.

12:00 PM - 1:45 PM [Summit Welcome and Opening Plenary: What's Joy Got To Do With It?](#)

Speakers: Gabaccia Moreno, Maya Sullivan, Hanna Anderson

Creating Sustainable Solutions for Climate, Inclusion, and Access. The thing about climate is that you can either be overwhelmed by the complexity of the problem or fall in love with the creativity of the solutions." –Mary Heglar. The most sustainable solutions across sectors are those which bring community, connection and joy. But how can hard work bring us joy? Join Outdoorist Oath team members on a conversation about finding purpose and joy to create sustainable solutions in support of people and the planet.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Community Connections: Biking Between and Through Central Oregon Cities

Speakers: Chris Cheng, Don Morehouse, Elisa Cheng, Jordan Freeburn, David Green

The session will touch on four key topics: Transportation = recreation when done by bicycle and why all members of the recreation community should care about building better bicycle transportation infrastructure. How bicycle transportation is addressing our equity, safety, livability, economic, and climate change challenges, and what attendees can do to advocate for improved facilities. The important role ODOT is playing by building paths to connect Central Oregon communities and the destinations in between. How the Bend Bikes Map is creating a better community by connecting people on bikes to essential destinations and recreational opportunities. Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the Connection Between Bicycle Transportation and Recreation: Participants will learn how bicycle transportation can enhance recreational opportunities and why it's important for all members of the recreation community to support better bicycle infrastructure.
2. Explore the Impact of Bicycle Transportation on Equity, Safety, and the Environment: Attendees will gain insight into how bicycle transportation addresses key challenges such as equity, safety, economic development, and climate change, and learn strategies for advocating for improved cycling facilities.
3. Learn About the Role of ODOT and Local Initiatives in Connecting Communities: Participants will gain an understanding of how ODOT's efforts in building bicycle paths are connecting Central Oregon communities and destinations, and how tools like the Bend Bikes Map contribute to creating a more connected and accessible community.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Different Approaches, Same Goal: Two Strategies of Wilderness Stewardship

Speakers: Loren Payne, Noelle Windesheim, Casey Hufstader, Jean Clancey, Becky Hope, Cody Hufstader

Trailkeepers of Oregon's (TKO) Wilderness Ambassadors help to protect and enhance the Oregon hiking experience by engaging with trail users around topics such as hiking safety and Leave No Trace while gathering data on trail and campsite conditions. Learn about the growth of this wildly successful volunteer program, including how it partners with land managers, recruits and trains volunteers, and how the gathered data informs future Wilderness stewardship initiatives. Back Country Horsemen volunteers use pack horses to support the trail maintenance efforts of both volunteers and agency staff. Learn about the surprising capabilities of this traditional approach to Wilderness trail work and see what's involved in using it on your next backcountry project. Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the Role of Wilderness Ambassadors in Trail Stewardship: Participants will learn how Trailkeepers of Oregon's Wilderness Ambassadors engage with trail users to promote hiking safety, Leave No Trace principles, and gather vital data on trail and campsite conditions, and how this information supports future wilderness stewardship efforts.
2. Explore the Growth and Impact of the Wilderness Ambassador Program: Attendees will gain insight into the expansion of the Wilderness Ambassadors volunteer program, including how it partners with land managers, recruits and trains volunteers, and the role this collaboration plays in enhancing Oregon's hiking experience.
3. Discover the Benefits of Using Pack Horses for Trail Maintenance: Participants will learn about the capabilities and surprising advantages of using pack horses in wilderness trail maintenance, and understand how Back Country Horsemen volunteers contribute to both volunteer and agency-led trail work in remote backcountry areas.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Changing Dynamics of Outfitter Guides

Speakers: Cyndi Bolduc, Brian Paulsen, Megan Selvig

A broad look at the world of Outfitter Guides in Oregon. Starting with historical reference, we plan to note the changes in requirements, public perspective, the evolution of services offered, the increasing importance of networking and social accountability, and the future impacts of guiding upon resources and inclusivity. Learning Outcomes:

1. Current registration requirements for outfitters and guides
2. Historical reference of traditional guiding in Oregon
3. Impacts and areas of concern for future guides

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Empowering Diverse Communities & Overcoming the Baby Nature Gap in Outdoor Recreation

Speakers: Lestarya Molloy, Courtney Schultz, Jessica Carrillo Alatorre

Imagine a vibrant Oregon where every person, no matter their background or ability, feels the joy of Oregon's beautiful outdoors, the confidence to explore, and the freedom to be themselves outdoors. In this session, you'll hear from Lestarya Molloy, CEO/Founder of Fridie Outdoors focused on empowering people to get camping and outdoors, particularly people of color who have been under-represented in outdoor recreation. She will share motivations,

barriers, and opportunities to increase diversity outdoors, as well as strategies and approaches that can be applied.

The rate of Americans participating in outdoor recreation continues increasing; yet outings for families with children has declined. Many efforts focus on connecting youth to the outdoors, but historically have prioritized children ages 6+. This has created a significant service gap known as the baby nature gap. During the transition to parenthood, the adult brain changes and develops alongside their infant creating a unique opportunity to create changes in behavior and thinking. There is strong evidence regarding the benefits of nature for health and wellbeing including the healing and potential prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Outdoor recreation can help parents with infants connect to each other, their community, and heal severed relationships with nature. We will highlight the playbook for building innovative partnerships from a national nonprofit organization whose mission for over 10-years has been to empower families with children ages 0-6, to connect with nature and build a supportive, inclusive community. We will share lessons learned from our ongoing study centered on postnatal health in the outdoors with three different communities and partnership types ranging from traditional hospital networks, postnatal Doula aftercare, and tribal social services, and how we codesigned unique solutions for each community. Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand current state experiences
2. Identify near- and long-term opportunities to increase outdoor participation
3. Share proven strategies and approaches for inclusion outdoors

3:20 PM - 4:20 PM [Statewide Outdoor Recreation and Trails Plans: What have we learned and where do we go from here?](#) Speakers: Jessica Horning, Ian Caldwell, Caleb Dickson, Jodi Bellefeuille

A lot has changed since the last Oregon Trails Plan was published in 2016. In this session, Oregon State Parks staff will share what we've learned about trail use, the economic and health impacts of trails, and priorities of trail users and land managers from the 2025-29 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan update and a summer 2024 survey of trail partners. The majority of the session will be a facilitated discussion to gather additional information that will inform the next Oregon Trails Plan update and updates to Recreational Trails Program and ATV grant program evaluation criteria. Live polling and other interactive tools will be used to provide a variety of opportunities for feedback. Learning Objectives:

1. The latest data-based talking points on the popularity of trails in Oregon and their positive impact on our economy and health.
2. The top trail-related issues, needs, and challenges for trail users and land managers in Oregon. (State Parks staff will share what we know so far and wants to learn from you!)
3. How the Oregon Trails plan can help answer other important questions and/or provide tools to help address trails challenges. (We'll be figuring this out together!)

3:20 PM - 4:20 PM [Hiiiciqiliiicix - They are returning home: Rethinking Recreation for Tribal Youth](#)
Speakers: Ti yana Blackeagle, Clark Shimeall

Join tribally led non-profit Pandion Institute, as we share how our endeavors engage tribal youth through outdoor education in their ancestral homelands. We go beyond the term "recreation", and will discuss what we have learned through implementing an outdoor education model grounded in Indigenous values to support the development of youth and those young at heart. We are building the next generation of culturally competent and knowledgeable tribal leaders. We hope to challenge audiences in their approach to the outdoor recreation industry. Learning Outcomes:

1. Recontextualize the Concept of Recreation: Participants will learn how the Pandion Institute's outdoor education model goes beyond traditional views of recreation by grounding activities in Indigenous values, and how this perspective enhances youth development and leadership.
2. Gain Insight into Culturally Grounded Outdoor Education: Attendees will explore how Pandion Institute's programs engage tribal youth in outdoor education within their ancestral homelands, emphasizing the development of culturally competent and knowledgeable future leaders.
3. Enhance Cultural Awareness in Outdoor Recreation: Participants will gain tools to better understand and appreciate Indigenous cultural practices in outdoor settings, and be challenged to rethink their approach to the outdoor recreation industry through a more culturally inclusive lens.

3:20 PM - 4:20 PM [Developing, Growing and Sustaining Water trails for People & Wildlife](#)

Speakers: Michelle Emmons, Mark Fitzsimmons, Glenn Fee, Janine Belleque

Panel discussion with round table dialog and lots of Q&A opportunities throughout. We may use one of the polling applications that can be pre-downloaded on your phone. Explore how community landowners, agencies, State and local interests are working together to develop, grow and sustain water trails in urban and rural areas, while incorporating elements of stewardship and restoration as a core principle of design and user experience. Water trails have both an economic and conservation benefit. Utilization of marketing and promotion can help amplify those benefits by developing narratives to support considerations regarding cultural heritage, habitat conservation, and safety. Panelists will share ideas, approaches, challenges, opportunities and success stories for water trails around the State. Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand both the economic and conservation benefits of establishing a water trail, and how marketing and promotions, including water trail maps, can help amplify those benefits.
2. Learn different approaches to engage communities when considering creation of a new water trail or growing a trail.
3. Things to consider for access development, improvement or expansion
Identifying needs, challenges and opportunities and working with landowners

3:20 PM - 4:20 PM Research, Marketing and Outreach to Diverse Communities

Speakers: Carmela Montenegro, Kristin MacRostie

Communicating with diverse communities is most effective when informed by thoughtful research and outreach, ensuring every effort resonates and connects. Many outdoor organizations want more involvement from diverse communities, but not all organizations know how to make the necessary connections to inform the work. It takes thoughtful research and planning to reach people from different backgrounds. In this workshop, we'll discuss the importance of including diverse communities in your outreach with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Consultant and Market Researcher Carmela Montenegro. We'll also explore the foundations of researching diverse communities as well as how to engage new audiences and how to keep them engaged, including five go-to strategies from Kristin MacRostie at Quinn Thomas, a marketing communications agency. Learning Outcomes:

1. How to do research of your target audiences
2. How to build trust within the desired communities
3. How to execute from your research

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM General Session: The Future of Outdoor Recreation in Oregon: State Legislative Outlook

Speakers: Steph Noll, Jordan Elliot, Erik Kancler

What's on the docket for the 2025 Oregon legislative session for folks who care about access to outdoor recreation and all its community benefits? Join partners including Protect Oregon Recreation and Oregon Trails Coalition for a primer on several timely issues and the legislative process and walk away with a basic template for delivering a clear and compelling message whether you're an agency staff person sharing information requested by policy makers or an advocate providing testimony. Learning Outcomes:

1. What are key issues regarding outdoor recreation we expect the Oregon legislature to take up in 2025.
2. How the legislative process works & how individuals, community organizations, and businesses can get involved.
3. How to craft a succinct and compelling message on timely issues affecting outdoor recreation.

Friday, December 6

8:15 AM - 9:30 AM General Session: Oregon Recreation Community Updates

Speakers: LeeAnne Ferguson, Emma Flynn, Steph Noll, Amanda Wallace, Owen McLafferty, Matt Ruddy, Pamela Slaughter, Terra Lingley, Michelle Emmons and Matt McPharlin

A fun and inspiring storytelling session about exciting trails and outdoor recreation projects from around the state. Meet the local leaders making the magic happen!

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Elevating Access to Oregon's Adaptive Mountain Bike Destinations

Speakers: Emmy Andrews, Augusta Stockman, Jeremy McGhee, Aaron Turner, Melodie Buell

Not all access to the outdoors and recreation is created equal. However, with intention and inclusion centered, tourism managers and trail steward organizations are elevating access to mountain biking destinations in the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon. Join us to hear from Jeremy McGhee of The UNPavement, an accomplished consultant with lived experience to hear why and how they provide technical and creative solutions to remove barriers for adaptive trail users. In conjunction, Aaron Turner of Team Dirt, Emmy Andrews of Central Oregon Trail Alliance, and Melodie Buell of Oregon Adaptive Sports will share project updates, diving into why elevating trail access is trail stewardship, the impact it is having on their communities, and how your destination, too, can become welcoming to adaptive riders. Learning Outcomes:

1. How and why to do accessibility audits on mountain bike trails
2. How to get audits happening now
3. How to go from audits to action to = access!

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Transit to Trails: Celebrating Access to the Outdoors Via Public Transit

Speakers: Eric Lint, Jovi Arellano

Bend is well known for its many opportunities for outdoor fun and adventure. From epic skiing and mountain biking, to floating the river and casual hiking with scenic vistas, there's no shortage of year-round fun nearby. Thanks to the area's public transit provider, Cascades East Transit (CET), access to the outdoors is more easily within reach for all. While trailhead parking lots often overflow with rugged vehicles sporting an assortment of modifications, Bend's residents and visitors can reach mountain trails via a humble public transit bus in the summer. Likewise, those floating the river can be spared the two car shuffle and toss their inner tube onto CET's Ride the River shuttle. Other public transit offerings include a winter ski bus to Mt Bachelor and a ride to the top of Lava Butte. All are fully ADA accessible and offered at a low fare. Learn how CET makes these programs possible by partnering with local, state, and federal governments and through cooperation with private entities. Access to the outdoors can be made more accessible with public transit! Learning Outcomes:

1. How to develop funding opportunities for transportation, including the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).
2. Considerations for providing ADA access to the outdoors at scale.
3. Working with local partners to reduce vehicle trips at popular outdoor sites.

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM [Reimagining Recreation: Collaborative Recovery in the Pacific Northwest](#)

Speakers: Jeff Malik, Tracy Calizon, Lorelei Haukness

Join us as we explore the USDA Forest Service's national initiative to "Reimagine Recreation" through collaboration with employees, Tribes, partners, and stakeholders. In the Pacific Northwest, we're partnering with the National Forest Foundation to restore recreation assets in fire-impacted areas of the Mt. Hood, Willamette, and Umpqua National Forests. This presentation will spotlight our innovative efforts along the Clackamas River corridor in the Mt. Hood National Forest, emphasizing community engagement, creative design, and resilient landscapes that foster connections with the outdoors. Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the USDA Forest Service's "Reimagine Recreation" Initiative: Participants will learn about the USDA Forest Service's national initiative to transform recreation through collaboration with Tribes, partners, and stakeholders, with a focus on innovative strategies for restoring fire-impacted recreation areas.
2. Explore Restoration Efforts in Fire-Impacted Forests: Attendees will gain insight into ongoing efforts to restore recreation assets in the Mt. Hood, Willamette, and Umpqua National Forests, particularly along the Clackamas River corridor, and how these projects contribute to long-term resilience and community engagement.
3. Learn About Creative Design and Community Engagement in Forest Restoration: Participants will discover how the USDA Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation are utilizing creative design and community input to foster resilient landscapes that promote lasting connections between people and the outdoors.

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM [Outdoor Industry Partnerships and How To Engage](#)

Speakers: Mike Wallenfels, Conor McElyea

This session will speak to the power of aligning recreation advocacy with gear & apparel brands in Oregon to elevate the importance of recreation initiatives. This alignment can also bring increased attention to supporting local and Oregon recreation advocacy and non-profit programs. Who, How, and When to Pitch to get the biggest impact. Learn from Mike Wallenfels, member of the OIARAC (national: Outdoor Industry Association Recreation Advisory Council) and veteran of several brands in the Outdoor Gear & Apparel companies (Mountain Hardwear, Columbia, Timbuk2, Hydro Flask, Osprey) and Purpose and Partnership Consultant, Conor McElyea. Learning Outcomes:

1. National Recreation Advocacy initiatives.
2. How best to solicit support for recreation initiatives.
3. How to approach Oregon Gear & Apparel brands with funding requests.
4. How best to connect with brands to drive initiatives and gather support for work and funding needs.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM [Open Office Hours and Exhibitor Hall Networking](#)

Speakers: Listed Below

Structured networking time for summit attendees to talk to summit exhibitors, funders, technical assistance providers, potential employers, and statewide networks and organizations to learn more about their programming, partnerships, and what they have to offer. Participating partners will be stationed at exhibitor tables and at round tables around the Great Hall where folks can pull up a chair and chat. We'll have an emcee for the networking session encouraging folks to circulate at regular intervals.

- Staj Olson, Jeremy McGhee, Chris Bernhardt, Scott Bricker, Carie Behe - [Travel Oregon](#): Oversees Travel Oregon programs and projects related to outdoor recreation visitor experience development and other niche priority areas. Leads and collaborates with stakeholder-driven processes to support destination challenges and opportunities. Manages an array of strategic partnerships to bring key destination stewardship-related training, events and resources to Oregon's tourism industry.

- Jennifer Gould - [Economic Development for Central Oregon \(EDCO\)](#): Come explore the resources and connections available through EDCO to help move, start and grow your business.
- Yvonne Shaw - Conservation K-9s Protecting Oregon's Wildlife ([ODFW](#)): Come connect with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to learn more about their k9 program.
- LeeAnn Ferguson - [Oregon Community Paths Program](#): Come learn more about this grant program dedicated to helping communities create and maintain connections through multiuse paths, to complement and expand existing active transportation programs across the state.
- Rebeckah Berry - [Roundhouse Foundation](#): We support programs that inspire creativity and connect people with each other and their sense of place to ensure sustainability and economic success for Oregon's rural communities.
- Emma Flynn - [Bike First! Inclusion through Community Programming](#): Bike First! is a camp in Portland, Oregon, that teaches people with disabilities, primarily children and youth, the skills to ride typical two-wheel bikes independently. Come learn more about their program.
- Tyson Perkins - [Oregon Outdoor Alliance](#): OOA is looking to help answer questions and gain feedback on how we can best collaboratively market our state's outdoor industry economy. Come chat about how we can connect and come together for more state branding and recognition.
- Reva Gillman - [Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund](#): Learn more about OCRF and their 21st-century approach to conserving our living natural resources for present and future generations.
- Bill Kowalik, Cathie Flanigan - [DarkSky Oregon](#): Learn about the work of DarkSky Oregon to measure, protect and steward Oregon's dark skies and our ongoing work with state and national land managers, private businesses and educational entities, with opportunities for additional partnerships.
- Lindsay McIntosh-Tolle - [Trailkeepers of Oregon](#): Come talk to us about how to partner with TKO on trail stewardship projects, trail ambassador programming, and trail skills trainings.
- Pam Slaughter - [PDX People of Color Outdoors](#): POCO helps Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and White parents of BIPOC children build their natural connection with nature while in a caring community. Chat with POCO founder Pam Slaughter about their programs and opportunities.
- Jodi Bellefeuille - [Oregon Parks and Recreation Grants](#): The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department administers various recreation grant programs that support access to public lands. Come learn about these programs and how they might be able to support your recreation project.
- Stefanie Knowlton, Jo Niehaus - [Parks and Recreation Recruitment](#): The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department offers seasonal and year-round hiring opportunities around the agency. Learn about job opportunities opening soon!
- Jessica Horning - [Statewide Trails Plan](#): Learn about Oregon's Statewide Trails Plan!
- Jean Clancey, Casey Hufstader, Cod Hufstader, Melanie Kate Mason, Jean Clancey, Kim Zemek and Becky Hope - [Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon](#): How do our equestrians help our Wildernesses and recreational trails? What is the process for contacting local horse groups/chapters to help with projects? Working together to set up projects.
- Jennifer Gould - [Small Business Development Center, Central Oregon Community College](#): Come learn more about our mission to empower small business owners and future entrepreneurs with expert business advice, education, and support.
- Nichole van Eikeren - [Senator Wyden's Office](#) and [Senator Merkley's Office](#): Come meet local field representatives from Senator Wyden's and Senator Merkley's offices, share what you're working on, and learn how to connect with the right folks about your federal policy and budget concerns.
- Kate Porche - [Oregon State University's Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy](#): Connect with Kate Porsche, Director, and Nikki Cook, Assistant Director of Industry Engagement, at Oregon State University's Center for the Outdoor Recreation Economy. Explore OSU's innovative efforts in workforce training and education for the outdoor industry in Oregon and beyond. Whether you're curious about our programs or interested in collaboration opportunities, stop by for a conversation about how OSU is driving the future of the outdoor recreation economy.
- Kristin Dahl - [Crosscurrent Collective](#): Destination management and stewardship of outdoor recreation destinations! Join me for a discussion about innovative processes and projects for fostering ecosystem-wide collaboration in a community or larger region. I'm excited to learn from you and hear what you're working on.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM [Big Ideas in Outdoor Recreation](#)

Speakers: Caroline Fitchett, Jon-Paul Bowles, Glenn Fee, Aj Zelada, Kristin MacRostie, Michelle Gallup, Corrinne Oedeckerk, Matthew Weintraub

10-minute "TED talk" style presentations sharing brief overviews of recent research, emerging projects, or big ideas in outdoor recreation. Time for one or two follow-up questions during transitions between speakers. You're welcome to pop in and out of this session between speakers.

12:20 PM - 1:05 PM Outdoor Recreation Workforce Education Roundtable

Speaker: Kate Porsche

Join OSU for an open roundtable discussion with higher education institutions and organizations providing workforce training to the outdoor recreation economy across Oregon. We'll examine the current state of education, ongoing efforts, and opportunities for collaboration to strengthen workforce development in the industry. Additionally, we'll explore the potential organization of an education-focused track at the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit 2025. Grab your lunch from the Great Hall and join us to foster dialogue, share best practices, and identify actionable steps to enhance educational and training programs in Oregon.

12:55 PM - 1:15 PM Cultivating Mindfulness Through Nature

Speaker: Khyra Wilhelm

Join us for a short field session at the summit, where we'll explore the rising importance of wellness in outdoor recreation. This short guided walking meditation, close to the conference location, invites participants to step outside, breathe in the fresh air and ground themselves in nature. The integration of wellness into outdoor recreation has become increasingly important, driven by a surge in studies highlighting its benefits. These studies point to mindfulness-based activities - such as walking meditation and breathwork - as significant contributors to reduced anxiety, improved focus, and enhanced emotional regulation. Outdoor recreation companies now integrate wellness practices into their offerings to meet this rising demand, fostering connection on environmental, personal and community levels.

Explore the intersection of the outdoor and wellness industries and discover how mindful practices can enhance both personal and professional outdoor experiences. Our walk will include breathwork practices, movement and mindfulness tools to help participants feel the grounding effects of spending time in nature. This field session allows participants to reset before returning to the day's sessions, and provides tools that participants can carry forward in their personal and professional lives.

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM Connecting Communities: Agency, Non-profit, and Community Collaboration Shaping the Mosier to The Dalles Trail Speakers: Ryan Farncomb, Renee Tkach, Claire Fernandes, Emily Mannisto-Meyers

Discover the transformative impact of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge (FOCG) Towns to Trails initiative in our session, where we'll explore how this initiative fosters community-nature connections, while preserving and highlighting environmental and cultural values. We'll outline one of the key trail projects of the Initiative that is looking at establishing a sanctioned trail between Mosier and The Dalles. Attendees will learn about the process and outcomes, with emphasis on the central role of collaboration in developing a successful trail project in the Columbia River Gorge. Highlighting collaborative efforts among the USFS, FOCG, community representatives, Tribes, and the local Latino community, we'll illustrate how community involvement drives the trail development process. We will show how we applied a clear set of criteria to help us make choices with the community and partners about where the trail should go, avoid environmental or other impacts, and establish what types of user groups can and should be planned for. Ultimately, this session will underscore the power of community-driven initiatives in fostering sustainable trails that work for communities, the environment, and that result in a coalition of diverse partners that will help see the trail through from "good idea" to future implementation.

Learning Outcomes: Importance of collaboration early in the planning process, especially with community members who will be directly affected, who may not feel that their voices are heard, and communities that are heavily invested in the future use and maintenance of the trail. Providing meaningful ways for community members to engage and provide real input instead of "checking the engagement box," as well as a unique framework for nonprofits and land managers to collaborate on planning efforts that support the missions of both organizations. Balancing impact and access in areas of high visitor use and sensitive environmental/cultural resources. Learning Objectives:

1. Importance of collaboration early in the planning process, especially with community members who will be directly affected, who may not feel that their voices are heard, and communities that are heavily invested in the future use and maintenance of the trail.
2. Providing meaningful ways for community members to engage and provide real input instead of "checking the engagement box," as well as a unique framework for nonprofits and land managers to collaborate on planning efforts that support the missions of both organizations.
3. Balancing impact and access in areas of high visitor use and sensitive environmental/cultural resources.

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM [Responsible Recreation: Respecting Wildlife](#)

Speakers: Jessica Clark, Brock McCormick, Jamie Bowles, Jana Johnson

Outdoor recreation use continues to grow along with the many benefits it brings to recreationists, but how are human activities impacting wildlife and what can we do about it? This session explores challenges and best management practices to address ways we can attempt to meet both human and wildlife needs around this complex issue. The speaker panel includes speakers from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and the Deschutes Trails Coalition and will be answering questions from a moderator from the audience. Learning Objectives:

1. Listeners will learn about what responsible recreation is and why it matters. Mainly, they will learn
2. Recreational impacts on wildlife
3. The science behind trail and recreation planning

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM [Trailblazers in Green Careers: Cultivating Youth Environmental Leaders & Outdoor Professionals](#)

The "Trailblazers in Green Careers" project is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards and outdoor professionals. Through immersive internships, mentorship, and skill-building, we empower young people to forge impactful careers in environmental advocacy, stewardship and outdoor education. We recruit BIPOC youth from Bend and Redmond and pair them with local environmental/outdoor organizations and business in order to promote diversity and career pathways in the green sector. This presentation will share on how we designed the project and created relationships with youth and organizations to get this started. We will also talk about failures and success along with future plans. We will hear from some of high school members of the 2024 cohort on the impact, value, and personal experience through this journey. We hope with this insight that we can inspire other projects in other locations and connect with similar projects. Join us as we cultivate a passionate cohort of trailblazers committed to safeguarding our environment and inspiring positive change. Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn How to Design and Implement a Green Career Pathways Program: Participants will gain insight into how to create and develop a youth-focused program that connects BIPOC youth with environmental and outdoor organizations, fostering diversity and career opportunities in the green sector.
2. Understand the Impact of Mentorship and Skill-Building for Youth Development: Attendees will learn about the value of immersive internships, mentorship, and skill-building in empowering young people to pursue careers in environmental stewardship, advocacy, and outdoor education.
3. Reflect on the Challenges and Successes of Launching a Youth Program: Participants will hear about the successes, challenges, and lessons learned from the "Trailblazers in Green Careers" project, including firsthand accounts from youth in the 2024 cohort, and how these experiences can inform similar initiatives in other locations.

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM [Piloting a Volunteer-Powered Model for Profiling Inclusive Trails](#)

Speakers: Georgena Moran, Loren Payne, Augusta Stockman, Kari Shippen

Join us for a breakout session showcasing how a volunteer-powered pilot project in the Willamette Valley offers a model for increasing the availability of accessibility information in outdoor spaces. Guided by the lived experiences of trail users with a variety of access needs and grounded in the principle that everyone benefits from access to trail information, the Willamette Valley Trail Profiling Team was launched collaboratively by Access Recreation, the Willamette Valley Visitors Association, and Trailkeepers of Oregon in 2023. The project recruited and trained volunteers to gather useful trail system information to empower trail users of all abilities to make informed choices about where to recreate.

We trace the project's evolution through key partnerships and emphasize the power of cross-sector collaboration, diving into trail selection criteria and approaches to volunteer recruitment and training. Attendees will learn why the volunteer-powered trail profiling model is a good fit for this work and how we can best harness and steward community excitement and capacity. Overall, we aim to show how the results of this project can be replicated and expanded upon throughout Oregon and beyond. Learning Objectives:

1. Information empowers and is crucial in making the outdoors more inclusive. Everyone benefits from and deserves access to basic information about where they choose to recreate.
2. Best practices for volunteer recruitment and management, including insights from a member of the volunteer team.
3. The necessity of including, listening to, and learning from those with lived experience in trail survey work specifically and accessibility work more generally.

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM [E-Bikes: Managing Change Across Jurisdictions, Trail Types, and E-Bike Classes](#)

Speakers: Lisa Machnik, Jana Johnson, Jo Niehaus, Layne Wyse

The surge of popularity in electric assisted bikes (E-bikes) and e-micromobility devices is opening up new opportunities for many people - from commuters to recreationists. This relatively new and evolving use also creates

challenges for planners, trails specialists, and land managers who are working to determine how to incorporate this use in a way that addresses the physical, social, environmental and economic impacts - both positive and negative - of e-bikes and other e-mobility devices and their use on trails, beaches, paved paths and roads. This session will feature the perspectives, policies, and processes of multiple public sector agencies who are working on policy changes that consider e-bike use across varied public land jurisdictions. It will also focus on how a local trails coalition made collaborative efforts to solicit community engagement and how that effort was of value to the community and also to land managers in moving forward with e-bike related policy changes.

Jo Niehaus, Policy Advisor with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, will speak to OPRD's efforts to manage e-micromobility demand in state parks and an upcoming rulemaking process OPRD is undertaking. Layne Wyse, Associate Park & Trail Planner with Metro, will discuss Metro's work with regional and local parks and new trail sign designs they've been rolling out. Lisa Machnik - Recreation, Heritage and Lands Staff Officer from the Deschutes National Forest - will talk about the Forest's process to evaluate e-bike use on FS trails. Jana Johnson, the Executive Director of the Deschutes Trails Coalition, will share the process the Coalition led to bring Central Oregon trails users together to share their input and how that is helping local land managers to craft proposed e-bike policy changes locally. Learning Objectives:

1. HB 4103 and what the adoption of a three-tier e-bike classification could mean for local agencies across the state.
2. OPRD's upcoming rulemaking regarding the use of e-micromobility devices in state parks. How agencies are updating and designing trail signage to promote responsible use of devices on shared paths and lessons learned to date.

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Gravel Cycling: Oregon Coast Case Study

Speakers: Finn Johnson, Kevin English, Linda English

OCVA and Dirty Freehub have worked together to recreate cycling on the Oregon coast. Together, they created gravel bike Ride Guides and a printed gravel guide book and launched a well targeted marketing campaign to bring cyclists to the region during the shoulder seasons. What lessons did they learn? What resources did this take? And what has been the impact on the region? What advice do they have for other regions striving to target the gravel cycling community? How are they educating these cyclists on culture, history, heritage and environmental issues in the region? Join us for a roundtable discussion. Learning Objectives:

1. What are the opportunities in gravel cycling to promote a specific region?
2. What are the specific steps that you can take to promote gravel cycling?
3. What does gravel cycling need to be a key economic driver in the region?

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM The Oregon Brand in the Outdoor Industry: Bridging Industry and Education

Speakers: Kate Porsche, Todd Laurence, Gary Bracelin, Tyson Perkins

Hear from Bend Outdoor Worx for a history for Oregon outdoor brands, success stories from their accelerator cohort program and the current state of Oregon outdoor brands as well as Oregon State University including Todd Laurence from SnoPlanks Academy, and Kate Porsche from OSU - Center for Outdoor Recreation Economy. Opportunities like the revolutionary SnoPlanks Academy program and the Outdoor Products undergraduate experience are just two ways that Oregon education gives back to the state's outdoor industry. Oregon Outdoor Alliance will connect the loop by demonstrating how they give new and matured Oregon outdoor brands connections to state resources, industry partners and pathways back to these wonderful programs. Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the Innovative Approach to Outdoor Industry Workforce Education: Learn about Oregon State University's SnoPlanks Academy and its role in providing experiential learning and career pathways in the outdoor industry.
2. Explore the Benefits of Industry-Education Collaborations: Gain insight into how partnerships between educational institutions and businesses, such as OSU-Cascades and Bend Outdoor Worx, drive innovation and workforce development.
3. Analyze Case Studies from Bend Outdoor Worx Business Accelerator: Examine real-world examples from BOW's accelerator program to understand the impact of business support and mentorship on outdoor industry startups.

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Outdoor Film Night

Paddle Sports on Oregon's Waterways

Oregon State Marine Board

Roots: We Been Here

Chad Brown, Love is King

Black, Indigenous, and people of color have enjoyed outdoor recreation throughout the history of the United States and the creation of the National Parks, and before colonization amongst Indigenous groups native to this continent. And yes, this does not cancel the negative of history. We've been here! This information, however, should be

considered and addressed when learning about the history of outdoor recreation in the United States and today's recreation amongst BIPOC communities who do recreate and find healing in the outdoors in their unique approach to green outdoor spaces. The series focuses on past and present outdoor recreationists who find joy, like BIPOC folks who have accomplished milestones in pursuing the outdoor recreationist community. Their stories deserve more recognition and exposure. This series features Pam Slaughter (she/her), Founder & Executive Director, People of Color Outdoors Mercy M'fon (they/them), Founder & Co-Executive Director, Wild Diversity, and Brian Chou (he/him), Instructor/Photographer, Soul River, Inc.

[Undammed: Amy Bowers Cordalis and the Fight to Free the Klamath](#)

Patagonia Films - Whit Hasset

After witnessing a massive fish kill on her ancestral home waters, Yurok tribal attorney Amy Bowers Cordalis dedicated her life to reversing the generations-long destruction wrought by the Klamath River dams. Undammed follows her journey to free the Klamath, from testifying before Congress to passing down fishing traditions within her young family. Now that the Klamath dams are finally coming down, she remains confident that the future of her tribe is bright. "It's not a test," Bowers Cordalis says of the largest dam-removal project in US history. "It will work."

[Explore Central Oregon with Wheel the World](#)

Wheel the World & Visit Central Oregon

Wheel the World is an online platform to find and book accessible travel experiences: Hotels, tours, and activities for people with disabilities and their families and friends. Working with tour operators and hotel chains, we are identifying the most accessible stays and activities to do around the world, offering them through gowheeltheworld.com. Let's explore the world without limits!

[Right to Joy](#)

REI Co-op Studios and Wondercamp

As a trans-masculine cyclist and policy scholar, Izzy Sederbaum was searching for community and acceptance within the sport. After surviving a rare cougar attack on a ride outside of Seattle in early 2018, Izzy was hospitalized with severe facial trauma while hateful anti-trans rhetoric filled comment sections of news articles that he had little to no control over. In the years since, he has struggled to overcome his anxiety of being alone in the woods and the self-doubt brought on by strangers after the attack. Despite these challenges, Izzy found solace and support in the Seattle cycling community, which reignited his passion for the sport. 'The Right to Joy' film follows Izzy's journey as he navigates the aftermath of the attack, overcomes his fears, and becomes an advocate for diversity and trans inclusion within cycling communities across the country.

[Stop. Speak. Smile.](#)

Wahoo Films

This short film was created by Oregon Equestrian Trails, Central Oregon Trails Coalition, Back Country Horsemen, Sisters Trails Alliance, hikers, and the Forest Service, and the Deschutes Trails Coalition funded it. So it's truly a collaboration that included everybody in the non-motorized trail world here in Central Oregon.

[Pedal Through](#)

Aly Nicklas Films

From co-directors Analise Cleopatra and Aly Nicklas, Pedal Through follows a trio of women—Cleopatra, her close friend and fellow newcomer to the sport DeJuanne Toliver, and professional mountain biker Brooklyn Bell—as they ride 132 miles of the Three Sisters, Three Rivers route in central Oregon. Cleopatra and Toliver conquer obstacles and fears under Bell's tutelage and draw connections between the trail and life.

[Casting at Ghosts](#)

Prolific Northwest

Swinging flies for winter steelhead is arguably the most challenging way to catch these elusive anadromous fish. This is where the help of a professional fishing guide can be very beneficial. I first met Jaime Delgado 2 years ago on a steelheading trip where I was taking photos and fishing with some friends on the Oregon Coast. Immediately I was drawn to the fact that Jaime's approach to guiding clients was different from other guides that I had fished with over the years. He was much more patient and willing to work with his clients on casting and trying to connect with fish. It also turned out that he was very good at finding steelhead. I knew right then and there that I wanted to help share his story so that other people could have a chance to learn more about him and hire him for a trip of their own. I had a great time making this film and learned a lot about chasing winter steelhead.

Saturday, December 7

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Adaptive Mountain Biking Ride-Along

Speaker: Jeremy McGhee

Adaptive mountain biking (aMTB) is a growing portion of trail use as adaptive athletes relentlessly push the limits of what is possible. Like all trail users, aMTBers seek singletrack, and want a range of experiences, from flowy jump lines to rugged, backcountry escapes. aMTBs have both mechanical advantages and disadvantages compared to mountain bikes, and to better understand the particular needs of aMTBers, we'll be led by a team of adaptive riders on a variety of equipment.

The adaptive riders will highlight typical trail conditions, such as severe outslope or narrow passages, that can vex aMTBs, as well as the need for progression, directional routes, and support infrastructure such as accessible van parking spaces, zero-barrier restrooms, and flat, durable-surface parking lots. This will be a great opportunity for land managers and professional and volunteer trail builders to ask questions and better understand how they can work with the adaptive riding community to increase access. Come join us to learn and to share good trail vibes! Learning Outcomes:

1. Typical and common adaptive mountain biking equipment.
2. Advantages and disadvantages of aMTBs compared to MTBs.
3. Trail design, construction, and maintenance to improve aMTB access.

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM AdvenTours- Accessible Hike at Smith Rock State Park with AdvenChair

Speaker: Geoff Babb

[Wanderlust Tours](#) is beyond excited to be partnering with [AdvenChair](#), to offer [AdvenTours](#), bringing more accessibility to the outdoors and helping those with mobility challenges explore beautiful areas that may not initially seem accessible. To wrap up our 2024 Outdoor Recreation Summit, our adventure will take us to the stunning red rocks of Smith Rock State Park, a must-visit destination in Central Oregon that without the AdvenChair, does not prove to be super accessible to those with mobility challenges. Chairs in tow, we will begin our descent into the Crooked River canyon and hike along the spectacular riparian habitat. From here our options are many, from a beautiful and flat wander along the river scouting for otters and osprey to a steeper hike up a ridge for stunning views of the Cascade Mountains! Both hikes will enliven the senses and spark wonder at the fantastic geology that shapes this incredible canyon.

Two AdvenChairs will be available for our Smith Rock AdvenTour. When registering, please indicate if you have mobility challenges (a disability, bad knee or ankle, or just have a body that's wearing out) and will want to use an AdvenChair. If we have any open chairs, folks are welcome to try one out to get an understanding of how it functions and what it feels like when in action. AdvenChairing is a team sport, requiring volunteers to act as "mules", helping push, pull, and stabilize the chair as we traverse over rocky and rugged terrain. Volunteers will be needed to help those with mobility challenges fully experience the incredible accessibility that the AdvenChair brings to those who need it. Learning Outcomes:

1. Get introduced to the unique and fantastic geology of Smith Rock State Park.
2. Learn how an Advenchair functions and feels as an adventure mobility device.
3. Learn how to be part of the team "sport" in which volunteers help push, pull, and stabilize the chair as we traverse over rocky and rugged terrain.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Behind the Scenes at Central Oregon Trail Alliance (COTA)

Speakers: Emmy Andrews, Alex Brieger

This off-site tour/workshop will provide participants a behind-the-scenes look at how COTA manages our trail stewardship operations. We will meet at COTA's "bunker," a storage unit in Bend where we keep our tools. There we will discuss our inventory of powered equipment and hand tools, and how we manage stewardship of 520 miles of trails and 5 bike parks in a 3-county area that stretches for 100 miles north to south and 100 miles east to west. We'll discuss how we manage funding, volunteer recruitment and training, trail building and maintenance, bike parks and flow trails, signage, and answer participants' questions about our operations. We'll also provide an opportunity for participants to "get their hands dirty" by getting on the controls of one of our skid steers. Learning Outcomes:

1. Get a behind-the-scenes look at how COTA manages the stewardship of 600 miles of trail and 5 bike parks.
2. Learn about COTA's staff composition and their responsibilities, our volunteers, and our day-to-day operations.
3. Learn more about the tool inventory necessary to support our work.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wildlife Crossing Structures: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Speaker: Cidney Bowman

Join us for a site visit to the Lava Butte multi-use under-crossing to show how good infrastructure can benefit wildlife and human access along US 97. This site visit will prompt discussion on how to design structures that benefit both user groups. Oregon State University-Cascades will present on monitoring research and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Transportation will discuss the agreements, planning, construction, wildlife habitat, and other logistics. Discussion will also include a discussion of the planned bike path from Bend to La Pine and how crossings can benefit wildlife and humans if designed appropriately. Learning Outcomes:

1. Purpose and need for wildlife passage,
2. How user groups impact one another,
3. How to get to a win/win for outdoor recreation and wildlife.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Snowshoe with a Ranger

Speaker: Laken Bosé

[Discover Your Forest](#) invites you to discover the Deschutes National Forest while participating in your favorite winter activity! Join *Snowshoe with a Ranger* at Mt. Bachelor's West Village. The *Snowshoe with a Ranger* interpretive program will take you on a one-mile snowshoe hike through the beautiful alpine forest along Egan Cone. Discover Your Forest staff and USFS Rangers will guide you on your snowshoe adventure, providing information on central Oregon geology, hydrology, and winter ecology as well as gain an understanding of the diverse programs Discover Your Forest offers. Learning Outcomes:

1. Learn more about central Oregon geology and hydrology.
2. Learn more about winter ecology
3. Learn more about the diverse programs Discover Your Forest offers

