

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A winding river flows through the center, surrounded by green fields and brownish soil. A small town or village is visible in the middle, with buildings and roads. The terrain is hilly and uneven.

Colfax-Albion-Pullman Rail-Trail Opportunity

Railbanking and trail building for multimodal transportation
and economic vitality



Palouse Hills

About Us

Pullman Civic Trust (PCT) is a non-profit volunteer organization of more than 700 community-minded citizens of the Palouse.



PCT was established in 1983

PCT has completed many projects including the Bill Chipman Palouse Trail, Three-Forks Wayside, and River Park waterfall. PCT continues to enhance the region's trail system.

Today's Outline



Issues

PCC railway corridor has remained idle since 2006



Opportunities

Railbanking preserves rail corridors for future use



Successes

Community conversations and agency presentations



Challenges

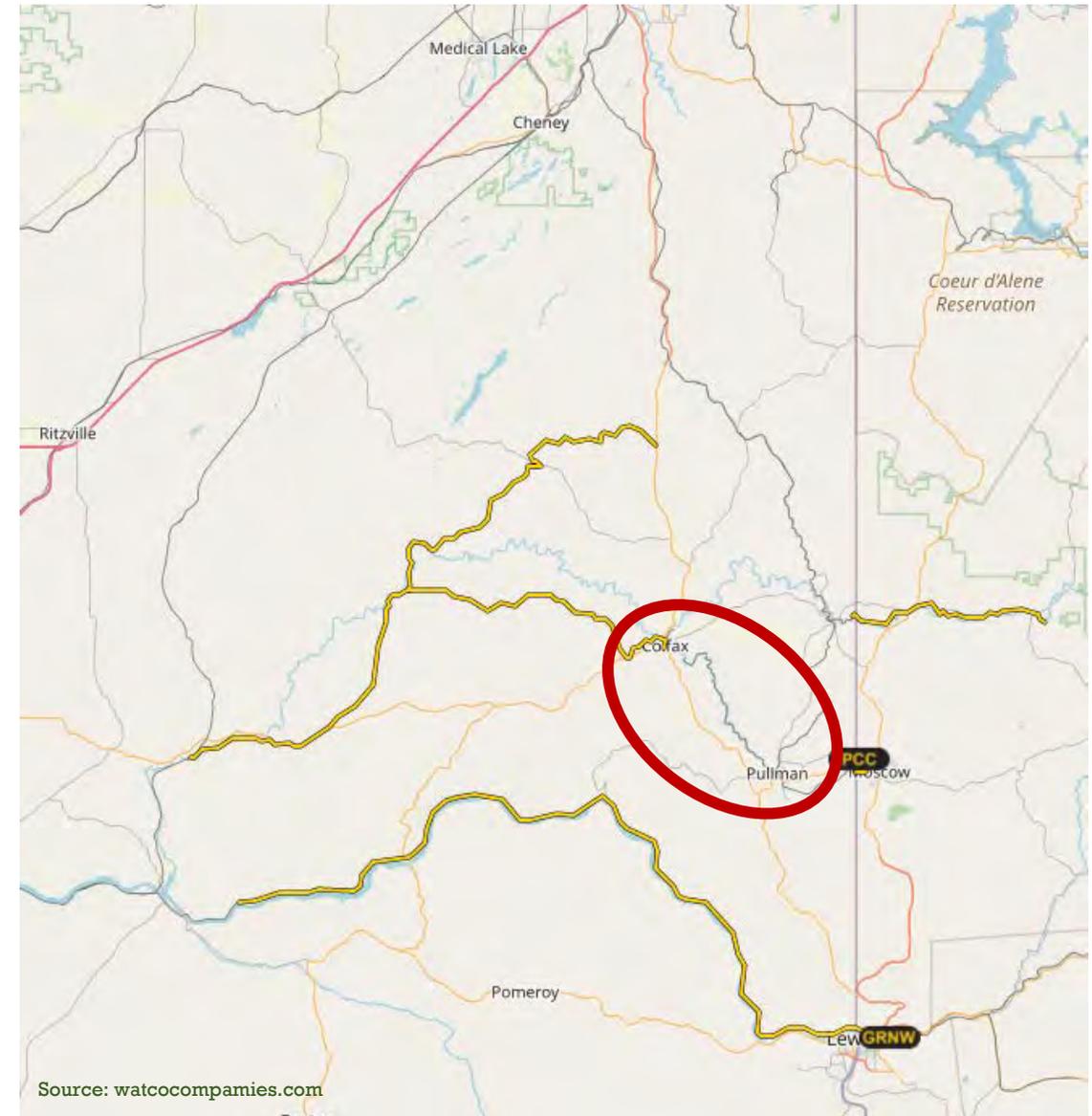
WSDOT agreeing to railbank requires legislative approval

Issues Lead to Opportunities



2006

- Trestle between Colfax and Albion burned in 2006 shortly after WSDOT purchased the rights of way
- This section of the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) Rail System has remained idle ever since
- Lack of traffic demand opens the door for railbanking and trail creation





19-Mile Trail

CAP links Colfax and Albion, WA to Julietta, ID



60-Mile Regional Trail

CAP trail is part of a bigger regional trail system



Source: ridewithgps.com

Scenic Corridor Highlights the Palouse























What is railbanking?

The National Trails System Act
P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 116-9

Railbanking is a Coordinated Effort

Federal law, Ownership, and Corridor management

Federal Law

- Preserves the national rail network
- Retains existing rail easements
- The right of reactivation is retained by the railroad (WSDOT)

Ownership

- WSDOT relinquishes ownership of the ROW
- Cost of maintenance assumed by railbanking entity/management group.

Management

- This trail will be managed by a consortium of entities
- Responsible for upkeep, maintaining weeds, etc.
- Fundraising through grants and donations

The Palouse has two successful railbanking models.

- **Bill Chipman Palouse Trail operates as a County Park.**
- **Latah Trail operates as a non-profit.**



Railbanking Opportunities

- Saves WSDOT money when maintenance is done by a trail management group that procures funding from dues and donations
- Frees up valuable assets for use elsewhere in the rail system
 - Rails, ties, and crossings materials. WSDOT will salvage materials
- Provides year-round transportation and recreation opportunities
- Converts WSDOT long-term liability into a benefit to the State.
- Preserves taxpayer investment
 - Railbanking preserves this public **amenity** for the benefit of **all** WA State Citizens.



Bill Chipman Palouse Trail



High Rate of Return on Investment

- A 60-mile trail from Colfax to Julietta becomes a **Destination Trail**
- **Colfax** could capitalize on overnight visitors as a trailhead
- **WSU** and **UI** bring people, the trail gives a reason to stay longer
- Trails provide public access to **view** the Palouse landscape.
- Trails rank high as enticement for recruitment and retention
- Trails give all ages a recreational amenity and safe transportation routes

Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail



“Locally, every time there is a user on the trails it represents a \$10 benefit to the local economy in food, fuel, or lodging.”

--Friends of the Trail of the Coeur d’Alenes



Trails Improve Quality of Life

- Active recreation opportunities
- Added health benefits
- Historical preservation
- Connects rural communities, as did the Railroads
- Taxpayer investment preserved for all ages

All citizens and future generations benefit.





Community Outreach

- Robust community conversations
 - Workshops in Colfax, Albion, Pullman, and WSU
 - Presentations to over 25 agencies and civic groups
 - WA Bikes, Port of Whitman County, County Commissioners, ASWSU, Palouse Trails Committee, Pullman Kiwanis, Rotary, WSU Foundation, League of Women Voters, etc.
- Meeting reports on WSDOT website
- Local and regional planning documents include the CAP trail:
 - RTPO plan
 - City of Pullman Comprehensive Plan
 - Pullman 2040 plan
 - Pullman Chamber of Commerce



Community workshops



Next Steps

- Railbanking
 - Create a railbanking entity
 - Introduce legislation to railbank
- Trail building
 - Fundraising
 - Build trail in phases:
 - Phase 1: Colfax to burned trestle & Pullman to Albion.
 - Phase 2+: Replace trestle and extend through middle



Please support the Legislative process to railbank this corridor

Thank you

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