

Be There for The Gorge

FAQs

What's the timeline for restoring these trails?

The US Forest Service has a detailed description of the steps and timeline for restoration around Multnomah Falls [here](#). If we can raise these funds now, USFS anticipates people will be able to be back out on these trails sometime later this year.

Who are you working with on this project?

Oregon's Kitchen Table has been working in partnership with the [Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area](#) office of the US Forest Service, the agency that manages these trails, as well as other partners that include [Friends of the Gorge](#), [Trailkeepers of Oregon](#), and the [National Forest Foundation's Pacific Northwest Program](#). Many, many other folks have provided support in a variety of ways - from outreach to rewards to events to creating the crowdfunding video (thank you, Jill from [Multnomah Falls Lodge](#), Dana from [Pacific Crest Trail Association](#), Jessica from [Hike It Baby](#), [Gregory](#) from Departure, Dr. Christopher from [Cragrats](#), Lt. Dexter from [Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue](#), and Damon from [Portland Fire and Rescue](#) for that opening footage!) and other images and videos throughout the campaign! Other partners who've made significant contributions are listed above.

Where is money raised during the crowdfunding going to go?

The money collected will be distributed among partners as identified and directed by the US Forest Service as they allocate who will do what work. Oregon's Kitchen Table isn't itself a trail restoration organization. The Forest Service anticipates that work will include engineering, tree removal, rock removal, and trail regrading, and the plan is to use a combination of professionals and volunteer work crews. We act as crowdfunding host for all types of project and the project leads then distribute or direct the distribution of the funding. OKT's role is to host the crowdfund, to conduct outreach, to develop materials, and to guide crowdfunding strategy. We have a 501(c)3 arm that collects the funding to allow for people to make tax-deductible donations to public projects like this. Our criteria for crowdfunding projects is that they serve a public

purpose and benefit Oregonians and have widespread enough appeal / interest to the general public. [You can view our past crowdfunds here.](#)

Why doesn't government pay for this work?

The Forest Service is certainly doing what it can; in fact, they've been able to do quite a bit of tree clearing already in the area to help ensure that trees badly damaged during the fire don't fall and cause more damage or more dangerous situations. Our decision-makers and public agencies are faced with huge lists of projects that the public wants to see happen and there just isn't the funding for all of them. As we've seen in the past few years, our tax dollars aren't limitless! There are often gaps in public projects like these when public funds aren't able to cover the entire cost of a project, and crowdfunding can help to leverage larger sources of funds – from both the public and private sectors. Like many of you, we've [read](#) about the high costs of wildfire suppression over recent years and the toll that can take on funding for other activities, especially in [2017](#). As Oregonians, we want to do our part to help in restoration of some of our state's most iconic places.

I want to help restore the trails - what can I do besides donate to the crowdfund?

The USFS works with [local partner organizations](#) and contractors to carry out restoration work. Organizations like [Trailkeepers of Oregon](#) and [Pacific Crest Trail Association](#) train and coordinate volunteers to carry out-on-the-ground work. These organizations are the best places to go if you're interested in being on the ground to help with restoration work.

What about the rest of the Gorge damaged by the Eagle Creek Fire?

This is one of the first steps in restoring parts of the Gorge damaged by the Eagle Creek Fire. If we can surpass our goal, additional funds will go towards other restoration projects, which will take years and millions of dollars. There are also other efforts to help support local businesses impacted in the Gorge, particularly in Cascade Locks. Make sure to visit businesses there and in Corbett, Hood River, Troutdale, and farther east in the Gorge! Several businesses in Cascade Locks have come together through [Cascade Locks Strong](#) to encourage even those from far away to purchase gift certificates to those businesses. You may not be able to hike on these trails now, but we strongly encourage you to go out and enjoy the Gorge and its fantastic communities!

What about other fires in the state this past year?

We're piloting using crowdfunding to help with restoration efforts in different ways with this crowdfund as a starting point. The area around Multnomah Falls that suffered from fire damage is one of the most highly visible and visited places in Oregon. Lots of communities have suffered this past year - and we hope that this crowdfund will help establish a way for those who want to help their fellow Oregonians now and in the future.