

Better parking, signage suggested for Idler's Rest

Palouse Land Trust takes public input for potential improvements to nature preserve

By Garrett Cabeza
Daily News staff writer

Parking and trail signage are two items that local residents want to see improved at Idler's Rest Nature Preserve, which is nestled at the base of Moscow Mountain northeast of Moscow.

Palouse Land Trust, which manages and maintains the 35-acre property, hosted a public input session Wednesday night at the Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center in Moscow to find out what resi-

dents think would make the preserve safer and more enjoyable for its users.

"One of the things that we hear a lot is that our parking lot needs a lot of improvement," PLT Executive Director Amy Trujillo said. "So we've been talking about how we can add parking spaces to the parking lot, how we can use that space better."

Trujillo said the parking lot is "woefully inadequate."

Multiple residents said better trail markings would be beneficial

to prevent users from getting lost and to accidental trespassing onto private property.

One man from the audience said better signage will force users to think the preserve is more of an official place so they will be more inclined to follow the rules, such as keeping dogs on leashes and not veering off trails onto neighbors' properties.

The preserve is like a "hidden

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Kai Eiselein/Daily News

Aaron Eiselein walks along a trail Sunday at Idler's Rest Nature Preserve northeast of Moscow.



Kai Eiselein/Daily News

Erin Arellano, left, Paul Busch, Juan Arellano, Estrella Arellano, Junior Arellano and Chris Alva walk up a hill to a trailhead Sunday at Idler's Rest Nature Preserve, northeast of Moscow.

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gem," the man said.

"It is one of our challenges in trying to balance letting people know what they're supposed to do and where they can go with keeping it the nice, natural area that it is," Trujillo said.

One resident suggested signage should be posted about wildlife, such as bears, present in the preserve.

One person from the audience said some trails are steep and people have problems negotiating those, and Trujillo pointed out Boy Scouts installed steps in one area of the preserve for people who cannot negotiate the steep hills.

"We're trying to explore ways that we might be able to get even better access down in there for folks that are not even able to do the stairs," Trujillo said. "We're looking at feasibility studies for that."

Trujillo said the PLT has talked about using downed trees at Idler's Rest to make benches for users.

Trail improvements and signage could possibly be installed this summer, Trujillo said Sunday.

Larger projects, like expanding the parking lot, that cost more money could be put into action in the 2018 summer, Trujillo said, adding that grants will be available soon.

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