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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLUE MOUNTAIN REGION TRAILS

Public invited to celebrate the plan completion
for non-motorized trails and transportation network

Walla Walla, WA, -- After three rounds of public outreach, project leaders are set to release the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan to the public on Jan. 22, 2018. The celebration starts with a brief presentation of the plan's findings and recommendations at 5:30 p.m. at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds Community Building with food and Spanish interpretation provided.

The public is cordially invited to celebrate the completion of the Blue Mountain Region Trails Plan, which spans Columbia, Walla Walla, and northeastern Umatilla counties and the cities within. The plan is the result of a year-long initiative between Blue Mountain Region cities, counties, health departments, ports, state and federal resource agencies, and additional entities to develop a regionwide non-motorized trails and transportation plan. The goal of the plan is to enhance community connections, create better networks within built-up areas, and develop routes to the region's natural treasures.

During the first round of project outreach, almost 1,000 ideas regarding potential connections throughout the region were gathered. These ideas were combined with technical input from local jurisdictions to create a potential regionwide network.

At the second round of public workshops, the public ranked the individual regional connections in order of preference, and also prioritized various needs to determine key connections within towns. The goal of the second phase was to refine the network into what is broadly feasible and publicly desired.

During the third round of outreach that was conducted online, a draft blueprint of the Blue Mountain Region Trails network was presented to the public to review street-level and regional connections and to share their knowledge in route- and location-specific insights, locations for future use and general insights about the BMRT project.

For additional information about the Blue Mountain Region Trails – Ridges, Towns, and Rivers project, please visit bluezonetrails.org.

