

WASHINGTON

Washington State's history of trail development has resulted in some of the country's most iconic and well-used trails, making it the ideal western terminus for the Great American Rail-Trail®. The preferred route will begin at the Idaho-Washington border on the developing Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, an epic rail-trail that travels in segments across most of the state, ending in Cedar Falls. From here, a variety of trails in King County carry the Great American Rail-Trail into the Seattle area, where the trail will ultimately continue west to the Pacific Ocean along the burgeoning Olympic Discovery Trail.



In Washington, the trail is estimated to generate annually:

\$3.2M
in new
tax revenue

\$19.4M
GDP contribution

\$24.9M
in visitor
spending

1,600,000
trips

240
new jobs

\$11.8M
in labor income

Since the Old Milwaukee Road was first built through eastern Washington in 1911, the rail line has been an important part of the region's identity. Today, residents impacted by the 2020 Babb Road Fire are coalescing around the trail.

"There are no cheap silver bullets in economic development, but a long distance trail comes close; it brings in tourist dollars while also creating local activity in the towns it runs through, helping sell shoes, bikes and pumping up streetscape vitality. That's just some of what the Great American Rail-Trail can do for our state."

Jon Snyder
Senior Outdoor Recreation
and Economic Development Policy
Advisor to Gov. Jay Inslee