

Narrative project description for Coal Mines Trail New Signage Project

In 1995, Cle Elum, Roslyn, and Kittitas County partnered with Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to acquire an abandoned 4.7-mile Burlington-Northern Railroad right-of-way connecting the cities of Cle Elum and Roslyn. That spur line was originally built in 1886 to develop the local coal mining industry, running carts from the coal fields in Roslyn to the train depot in Cle Elum. With trailheads and parking access in each town, the CMT provides an all-season recreational corridor.

Since 1995 the Coal Mines Trail Commission has been the owner and ruling body of the trail as per an interlocal agreement between the property owners; Kittitas County and the Cities of Roslyn and Cle Elum. The Commission consists of an elected official from the three entities as well as a volunteer citizen from each entity. The current commissioners are Nolan Weis (Chair and City of Roslyn Councilor), Laura Osiadacz (Kittitas County Commissioner), Audrey Malek (City of Cle Elum Councilor), Toni Fields (Roslyn Citizen), Greg Maras (Kittitas County Citizen – Ronald), and Aja Woodrow (Cle Elum Citizen).

In 2024, the Coal Mines Trail Commission with the assistance of two non-profit organizations, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust (MTSG) and the Roslyn Ronald Cle Elum Heritage Club (RRCHC), created a plan to develop new signs to replace existing signage erected in the 1995, most of which no longer exist or are significantly damaged. A local interpretive planner, Studio Understory, was hired to work with the community to design the interpretive signs and new kiosks for the Ronald and Roslyn trailheads. Funding was raised by both the MTSG and RRCHC.

The Coal Mines Trail Interpretive Sign Project will install a coordinated system of interpretive signs and kiosks along the Coal Mines Trail. The Coal Mines Trail Commissioners confirmed sign locations during two site visits which occurred during their meetings on 10/6/25 & 5/4/26. The GAIA map showing these locations can be accessed using this link: <https://www.gaiagps.com/public/JYJ49KV0db5Hlq21jOxjnLQn/>

Here is list of the quantity and sizes of the various signs:

- (3) sets of three identical sign panels installed at three trailheads (Cle Elum, Roslyn, & Ronald)
- (3) Three wayside panels measuring 36"x 24"
- (17) Seventeen wayside panels measuring 10"x 12"

This project includes the fabrication and installation of durable, weather-resistant interpretive sign panels at historically significant locations along the existing trail, replacing existing signage. This project also includes the installation of two new sign kiosk structures at the Roslyn Pioneer Park and Ronald trailheads which will provide areas to mount three sign panels roughly 43"x36" in a trapezoidal shape. The existing "tipple structure" at the Cle Elum Trailhead will also have the three sets of sign panels installed.

These signs provide a trail map with regulations for trail use, orientation information, and interpretive materials, and additional visitor resources. Kiosks and signs have been designed to complement the existing trail environment and withstand outdoor conditions while providing safe and accessible information for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other trail users. Approval from both the Roslyn City Council and Cle Elum City Council has been received.

Installation will include site preparation, placement of posts and kiosk structures, mounting of interpretive panels, and restoration of disturbed areas as needed. The project will utilize the existing trail corridor and will not require new roads, buildings, water supply, or sewage disposal systems. No new water or sewer infrastructure is proposed.

The project is being completed in partnership with local historical, educational, cultural, and community organizations and will involve approximately 185 volunteer hours for installation. Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG), serving as the project manager, has developed a volunteer list and will coordinate with the Roslyn Ronald Cle Elum Heritage Club (RRCHC) to provide additional volunteers as needed.

Two key volunteers leading construction of the kiosk structures are experienced carpenters, each with approximately 40 years of experience in the construction industry, including ownership and operation of their own general contracting businesses. Their expertise will ensure the kiosk structures are constructed and installed with a high level of craftsmanship and durability. Teanaway Millworks is providing the lumber materials.