

Let's Rock – “Buy-A-Ton” Inland Northwest Rail Museum Reardan, Washington

One of the most critical components to constructing and maintaining a railroad is ballast. Ballast provides the foundation to support the ties, rail and equipment. The current price for 2-inch basalt ballast is \$60.00 delivered to the Inland Northwest Rail Museum in Reardan, Washington.

Our monetary goal for this “Buy-a-Ton” is \$10,750.00 to purchase 181 tons of ballast for the phased project described below. If you purchase 5 tons for \$300, you will receive a year membership to the museum.

Phase One work is under way to improve operations within the museum grounds. The north yard track, or Yard 1, currently has a sharp bend, making it difficult to make coupler joints. Further, there is no run-around track at the museum. To address the sharp bend and the lack of a run-around, Yard 1 will be realigned to ease the curve and extended to a point 350 feet from the current end of track. A switch will be installed in Yard 1 to connect Yard 2, creating a run-around.

Grading work on Phase One, shown below, is complete.



Existing track “kink.”



New alignment center line.



Tail track alignment, center line 15' from fence.

Phase One ballast, 104 tons, will cost \$6,240. To date, “Buy-a-Ton” funds are available for 6 tons of ballast. That is one-half of a 12-ton transfer truck. Your purchase will help reach the goal of 104 tons of ballast for this phase.

Phase Two, installing a switch from Yard 4 to Yard 1 and installing the tail track, will begin once Phase One is complete. An additional 75 tons of ballast will be required to complete this phase at a cost of \$4,500.00. Yard 3, laid with 56 lb. rail rolled in 1896, will remain a stub track.

You may make a donation by calling the Inland Northwest Rail Museum Friday thru Sunday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at (509) 796-3377.

We also gladly accept donations by mail. Please make checks payable to: Inland Northwest Rail Museum. Please note how many tons of ballast you wish to purchase.

Mail to: Inland Northwest Rail Museum, P.O. Box 471, Reardan, WA 99029