

Oregon Trail - Trail Decision #1

Three months ago your wagon train left Independence, Missouri and traveled west toward Ash Hollow. You are eager to reach Ash Hollow just a few miles down the trail. You have not tasted refreshing water in weeks and hear tales of the fresh water springs at Ash Hollow. Wagon trains are known to rest at here for a few days. First, you must safely travel down Windlass Hill, the first steep grade you will come to on your journey. Wagons are usually lowered by rope using a dozen men as "human brakes." It is so steep that everyone is nervous and everyone has been silent for the last few miles.

Trail Decisions (TD):

- 1) You decide to save time and lower your wagon alone with your family and a few other wagons in hopes of arriving in Ash Hollow for an early supper. If you succeed, you estimate that you may make you next landmark by nightfall.
- 2) You decide to play it safe and work as a wagon train spending the next few days helping each other lower the wagons one by one. If you succeed, you may loose precious time; however, this maybe a safer alternative.
- 3) You decide that Windlass Hill is just too dangerous. You decide to set up camp and send a scout ahead to try and find an alternative route around the steep grade. This could be a safe choice; however, this could cost precious time on the trail.

Trail Decision	Possible Actions	Analysis of Possible Actions
1	You decide to save time and lower your wagon alone with your family and a few other wagons in hopes of arriving in at your landmark for an early supper. If you succeed, you estimate that you may make you next landmark by nightfall.	
2	You decide to play it safe and work as a wagon train spending the next few days helping each other lower the wagons one by one. If you succeed, you may loose precious time; however, this maybe a safer alternative.	
3	You decide that Windlass Hill is just too dangerous. You decide to set up camp and send a scout ahead to try and find an alternative route around the steep grade. This could be a safe choice; however, this could cost precious time on the trail.	
Action Chosen		

Trail Decision #1 Fates:

TD #1 (Go back one landmark) You tie a rope to your wagon and begin to slowly lower it with the help of the few men in your group. However, the weight of the wagon and slope at Windlass Hill is greater than you anticipated. You lose control of the rope sending your wagon crashing to the bottom of the hill damaging two wagon wheels and the wagon tongue. You must **go back one landmark** for materials to make the repair and to enlist others to help your wagon trail lower the remaining wagons down Windlass Hill.

TD #2 (Go ahead one landmark) You tie a rope to your wagon and begin to slowly lower it with the help of the many men from your entire wagon train. Working as a team, you complete the dangerous task by noon the next day, well ahead of schedule. You arrive at Ash Hollow by nightfall for an early supper and with time to refill your water barrels. Rested and ahead of schedule, you continue along the 57 mile journey to **the next landmark**.

TD #3 (Stay at the same landmark) The scout returns the following evening only to report that the alternatives are much more dangerous than the Windlass Hill route. Working as a team, you complete the dangerous task by the following evening. You are a little behind schedule, but happy to have safely arrived where you did.