



*Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting
the Klickitat Trail*

February 25, 2018

Klickitat Trail Improvements Gain Momentum

Dear Conservancy Members and Supporters,

Here is a brief update on two exciting and upcoming trail improvements. New bridges and new trailbeds are in our future!

I want to emphasize that your support and kind words are very important to encouraging us and keeping the Klickitat Trail Conservancy going. I am so pleased to be able to share this progress report with you and hope you know that you had a **VERY** important role in making it all happen. These grants are big steps in the right direction. I hope you are as pleased as we are!

All the best to you,

Barbara Robinson, President
Klickitat Trail Conservancy

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Grant: *The Klickitat Trail - Bridging the Final Gap*

Scope: Repair the 1-mile disconnect on the Klickitat Trail immediately north of the town of Klickitat. This ambitious grant encompasses 1) a new bridge over the Klickitat River at Suburbia to replace the missing trestle; 2) a small bridge over Snyder Creek in Klickitat to replace a lost trestle; and 3) one mile of new trailbed between these bridges, finally connecting Klickitat and Suburbia. This will finally make the entire 31-mile Klickitat trail fully continuous and much more accessible to hike and bike.

Status update: We got the grant! Washington State Parks was awarded a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) grant for this project when the capital budget for Washington State finally passed on January 19, 2018. Funded by the WWRP, the grant was awarded to Washington State Parks through a competitive grant process. When Randy Kline, Statewide Trails Coordinator for Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, was asked to verify the news he told KTC president Barbara Robinson, "*Yes, it's true! So exciting - Congratulations to you and KTC for making this a reality! You did it!*"

We must continue to exercise patience on this project. Though Washington State Parks has been awarded the grant, we know that nothing will happen quickly. Even with funding in place, the exact start date for implementation and improvements is yet to be determined.

The money that Irvin Mitchell left to the national Rails to Trails Conservancy to benefit the Klickitat Trail is pledged as a match for this grant. We have stipulated that Irvin's bequest be used for on-the-ground work, such as building bridges, boardwalks and improving the trail surface.

KTC has been working on critical trail improvement opportunities for years! Two years ago our board members went to a Washington State Parks Commission meeting to make the case for a grant to fix the one-mile disconnect in the Klickitat Trail. As the trail was becoming more and more popular, we argued that to be safer and more user-friendly, and to draw hiking and biking tourists coming from long distances, the trail needed to be fully connected. That started a 2-year, many staged process, of applying for a WWRP grant, involving lots of work on the part of KTC, as well as Washington State Parks. We are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the trail and believe it is a critical component to local economic development and the tourism industry.

Benefits of this new grant:

- . Residents of Klickitat gain easy access to the northbound trail directly in town;
- . Through-hikers and bikers will be able to stay on the trail at Klickitat and not have to navigate dangerous Hwy 142 for three miles;
- . The trail will be improved visually in sections affected by this grant;
- . A completely connected trail will draw more tourists for more days, which will benefit the economies of Lyle and Klickitat;
- . Tourists heading out from the Lyle trailhead have complete access to the entire trail with endless day-hiking and biking opportunities;
- . Opens up greater potential for events, such as a complete one-way marathon.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Grant: <i>Swale Canyon Trestle & Improvements</i>

Scope: Major trestle repair and general improvements to the Swale Canyon section of the trail.

Status update: Detailed planning is nearly complete. Work on the ground is slated to begin Spring 2019, with hopeful anticipation of being finished by the end of 2019.

STAY IN TOUCH

P.O. Box 512 ~ Lyle, WA 98635
website: www.klickitat-trail.org ~ email: info@klickitat-trail.org

Donations accepted with gratitude – volunteers always welcome