



*Dedicated to the preservation & promotion of the Klickitat Trail*

## Wrights Station

*The new kiosk in Klickitat was designed to have a railroad station look to it. The word Klickitat is prominent and faces Hwy 142. However, if you walk around to the other side of the kiosk you will notice the word "Wrights". This has historical significance.*

By Donna Enz



The Wright family originally lived in Missouri Flat, now called Appleton, which even today has deep snow much of the winter. So in the summer of 1889 when Edgar Wright and Norris Young first saw the Klickitat valley with its grassy slopes dotted with oak savannas and towering ponderosa pines they immediately recognized that this was an ideal place to relocate their cattle from the snow laden high elevations where their family lived. It was the spring of 1890 when they made their way into the valley and built a small cabin behind what is now 503 Klickitat Ave. Cattle fences were also built where the high school now stands. With the prospect of free land and open space to graze his cattle, Edgar's father, Lewis Wright, moved his wife and 7 other children down to the valley by about 1893. The Wrights became the first family to live on the site which we now know as the town of Klickitat.

The Wrights quickly made a life for themselves. They were described as having "that old pioneer spirit" and their home and hospitality were well known. A game of cards, a lemonade or a place to spend the night, this was a family that was well liked and on whom people could depend.

The coming years brought enough people into the Klickitat Valley that a post office was established in 1904. Lewis Wright was named postmaster although his wife took on the responsibility of running it. In 1905, after a successful year, the post office was named after the Wrights and the town was called the same.

The Goldendale branch of the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroad (SP&S) had been completed in 1903 making it easier to get timber, livestock and other products to market from Goldendale and the Klickitat valley. This helped to attract many people interested in timber and land claims. In 1908 the Robertson family moved to Wrights. It was Mr. Robertson who discovered that the mineral springs just north of town were naturally carbonated and soon he developed a bottling plant and started making flavored pop. This became the first business in the valley. He called his new product "Klickitat Pop". His pop was popular and because of the distinctive, decorative labels on the bottles the name Klickitat was becoming recognized.



*The Lewis Wright family about 1899*

The name Klickitat had been given to a stop at milepost 7.2 by the SP&S railroad. This is where they stored wood to feed their wood burning steam locomotive. But as Wrights at milepost 13.4 became more popularly referred to as Klickitat, the railroad switched the two signs giving the town of Klickitat its new name. A few years later the US Postal Service officially changed the name of the post office to Klickitat.

*Source: "So This Is Klickitat" (Metropolitan Press 1967) by Selma M. Neils.*

**Klickitat Trail Conservancy**  
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**The Mission** of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy is to preserve and promote the public use of the 31 mile Klickitat Trail as a recreational, cultural, natural, educational, and economic asset of Klickitat County.

**Members** strongly support the purposes, goals, and objectives of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy.

**Trail Notes** is a bi-annual publication of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy. Submissions are welcome. Articles, photos and comments can be sent to PO Box 512 Lyle, WA 98635 or emailed to info@klickitat-trail.org.

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**"It's not what you get from volunteer work or even what you give, it's what you become."** Mary Scott Welch

## Klickitat Trail State Park

Washington State Parks has begun a land-use planning project for Klickitat Trail State Park in Klickitat County. The 31-mile park runs northeast from the town of Lyle on the Columbia River to the Warwick access on Uecker Road.

The planning project, also known as Classification and Management Planning (CAMP), includes the four planning stages described below. The CAMP will address overall visitor experiences, natural and cultural resources, use of the park's buildings, recreation fields and trails, and other topics of interest to the community and park visitors.

The entire planning process includes a series of public workshops over an approximate year-long period. There are opportunities for the public to comment at each of the stages and documents will be added below when they are available.

- Stage One – Identify issues and concerns
- Stage Two – Exploring alternative approaches
- Stage Three – Preparing preliminary recommendations
- Stage Four – Preparing final recommendations

For more details go to the Washington State Parks Website: <http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/klickitattrail/>

Provide comments....

We are very interested in your thoughts and comments about this project. Please provide comments on the Klickitat Trail State Park project .

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

By Barbara Robinson

On Saturday, October 6th we had our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. We had two hikes simultaneously. A short hike from Lyle to Fisher Hill and a longer hike from Lyle to Pitt. Both hikes included the Lyle to Fisher Hill section this time to celebrate and enjoy the new smoother fine gravel surface that the Forest Service had just put on this section. The shorter hike was held jointly with Friends of the Gorge, and included an optional trip to Klickitat Canyon Winery, which makes wines organically, without sulfites, and uses whatever yeast is naturally on the grapes to ferment the wine rather than adding a specific yeast. (What won my heart was the picture of rows of grapes with balsamroots and lupines growing between the rows.) After the hikes we headed for the Klickitat High School, where we had good sandwiches from the Lyle Hotel, delicious huckleberry cheesecake from Huntington's Restaurant, and many tasty salads and other additions from KTC board members. A huge thank you goes to the Anniversary Celebration Committee, including Cheryl Steindorf and Laura Bales, who ordered and picked up the food, got the room and set up everything, and did lots of the cleanup. A special thanks also goes to our long-hike leaders Dave Berger and Bev Linde. I led our short hike. The hikes were well attended, with good weather and fall color. Everyone had fun and ate heartily at the celebration.



## Horses on the Klickitat Trail?

By Andrew L. Kallinen, Park Ranger  
Columbia Hills State Park

The Klickitat Trail is currently going through the master planning process. The basis of much of that planning work lies in the Environmental Assessment (EA) conducted by the USFS. The EA evaluated and included horse use for the trail. State Parks and the USFS are working on synchronizing USFS codes and Park codes so that the appropriate rules/regulations are parallel on the two separately managed halves of the trail so that there is little distinction to the user as to where the National Forest Trail ends and the State Park Trail begins.

WAC (Washington Administrative Code) 352-32-070 Use of horses, llamas, sled dogs or similar animals for recreation; states that none of these types of animals "are permitted on trails in any state park area, except where designated and posted to specifically or conditionally permit such activity."

Once we have an approved master plan and accompanying management plan that permits horse use and those other similar animals, the trail will be opened to that use. Interested parties may check on the status of the trail planning efforts at [www.parks.wa.gov/plans/klickitattrail/](http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/klickitattrail/).

## Spring 2008 KTC Scheduled Events

The following are KTC scheduled events. Everyone is welcome!

Please visit [www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org) for more details, schedule changes and maps.

Always remember to bring plenty of water and lunch or a snack. The trail has little elevation change. It can be rocky in places so good hiking boots are a must. Dress accordingly for the weather. **Pets and smoking are not allowed** on KTC sponsored events. Please stay on the trail at all times.

### DIRECTIONS

The **Lyle Trailhead** is located on the west end of Lyle, WA on the corner of SR-14 and SR-142. Look for the Klickitat Trail sign. (From Portland, take I-84 east to the Hood River Bridge. Cross into Washington and turn east on SR-14, to Lyle. From The Dalles, cross The Dalles bridge and turn west on SR-14 to Lyle). There is a portable toilet at this location.

**Klickitat Railroad Park** is located in the town of Klickitat just north of the Canyon Market. From WA Hwy. 14 near the town of Lyle head north on SR-142 for 13.5 miles.

**Harms Road Trailhead** is located just off the Lyle-Centerville Hwy. From Lyle, take the Lyle-Centerville Hwy., in the center of town. Head north for approximately 15 miles. Turn left on Harms Rd. Drive north one-half mile and park just north of the bridge. There is a portable toilet at this location throughout the spring and early summer only.

**Pitt Trailhead** is located 10 miles north from SR-14 on SR-142. There is a parking area across the street from a row of houses. There is a portable toilet at this location.

**Catherine Creek Trailhead.** From Hood River Bridge, take WA SR-14 east 5.8 miles to Old Hwy. 8: turn left, continue 1 mile to trailhead.

**March 15, Sunday: Hike**  
**Hike Leader: Barbara Robinson**  
**(Held Jointly with Friends of the Gorge)**

Length about 6 miles. Altitude gain 200 ft. Wildflower expert Barbara Robinson will lead the first part of this wildflower hike at **Catherine Creek**. The second part of the hike will move to the **Klickitat Trail between Lyle and Fisher Hill Bridge**. The surfaces on both these hikes will be gentle. **Meeting Place:** 10:00 am at **Catherine Creek Trailhead**.

**March 23, Easter Sunday: Hike**  
**Hike Leaders: Donna Enz and Sara Wu**  
**(Held Jointly with Friends of the Gorge)**

**Upper Swale Canyon.** Moderate: 7 miles round trip, 300-ft. elev. Gain. This is a moderately paced early wildflower hike along Swale Creek in the eastern Gorge. Look for desert parsleys and rare buttercups on this occasionally rocky trail. If the weather is bad or the spring is late, we may switch to a lower elevation hike. **Meeting Place:** 9:30 AM at **Lyle Trailhead**. Actual start of hike is 15 miles north of meeting place at the **Harms Road Trailhead**. We will car-pool to it.

**April 12, Saturday: Bike Ride**  
**Bike Leaders: Bob Hansen and Donna Enz**  
**(Held jointly with Friends of the Gorge)**

**Klickitat Trail Bike Ride, WA Mod/Strenuous:** 13-31 miles (Your choice), 1,000-ft. elev. LOSS. Ride from the high prairie of the Goldendale plateau down to the Columbia River with Klickitat Trail Conservancy's first president Bob Hansen. Experience oak, pine and Douglas fir riparian habitats. Helmets, a spare tube and front suspension required; rear suspension recommended, and fenders worthy of your consideration. **Meeting Place:** 9:00 AM at the **Lyle Trailhead** (\$10 shuttle fee).

Please contact Bob Hansen at 509.637.2736, or by e-mail at [bobhansen@gorge.net](mailto:bobhansen@gorge.net), if you plan to participate so that appropriate shuttle arrangements can be made in advance.

**April 12, Saturday: Hike**  
**Hike Leaders: Barbara Robinson and Susan Saul**

**Klickitat Trail: Wahkiacus to Suburbia (5 miles round trip or 2 miles if the weather is bad) and Catherine Creek (one and a half miles)** Wildflower expert Barbara Robinson and Trails Club of Oregon President, Susan Saul, will take you along the Klickitat River in the first part of this joint hike with the Trails Club of Oregon. This is a lovely and historically interesting stretch of the Klickitat Trail which in a mile gets us to an old Dry Ice Plant and mineral springs. If the weather permits we'll continue south along the river to the Suburbia trestle. The second part of the hike we will move to Catherine Creek, one of the premiere wildflowers viewing areas in the Gorge. This is timed for the peak of the camas bloom. **Meeting Place: Klickitat Railroad Park** at 9:15 AM.

**April 20, Sunday: Hike**  
**Hike Leaders: Bev Linde and Dave Berger**  
**(Held Jointly with Friends of the Gorge)**

**Fisher Hill Bridge to Pitt,** 8 miles, rocky in places. This very scenic route along exciting stretches of the Wild and Scenic designated Klickitat River. It will be at wildflower peak, with yellow balsam root, purple lupine, and much more.

**Meeting Place: Lyle Trailhead** at 9:30 AM.

**April 27, Sunday: Hike**  
**Hike leader: Jim Denton and Bev Linde**

**Swale Canyon,** 13 miles, heavy railroad gravel in sections. There is no access to this section of trail except at the beginning and end, so come prepared. About 6 ½ hours. This is a one way hike through remote and beautiful Swale Canyon. Early flowers should be at peak. Experience miles of yellow, fragrant dessert parsley in bloom. The trail is railroad gravel in places, so wear sturdy boots. This hike will involve a car shuttle on gravel roads. **Meeting Place: Lyle Trailhead** at 9:00 AM

**May 15, Thursday: Hike**  
**Held jointly with Lake Oswego Parks and Recreation.**  
**Hike Leaders: Donna Enz and Susan Saul**

**Fisher Hill to Pitt,** 8 miles, rocky in places. Hike along this Wild & Scenic designated section of the Klickitat River and see Native American dip net fishery at the "Narrows" section of the river. May is a good time for wildflowers. This is a one way hike. We will car shuttle back to parking area. **Meeting Place: Lyle Trailhead** 9:30 AM

**May 24, Saturday: Hike**  
**Hike Leaders: Jim Denton and Pam Essley**

**Swale Canyon,** 13 miles, heavy rail ballast in sections. Moderate pace. About 6 ½ hrs. If you missed the April hike, here's your second chance to hike beautiful and remote Swale Canyon before it is closed for fire season. (Usually around June 15) We do a car shuttle (involving gravel roads) so that we can hike one way. Remember, there is no way out except the beginning and end, so be in shape and come prepared. Bring plenty of water.

**Meeting Place: Lyle Trailhead** 9:00 AM

**June 7, Saturday: Hike - A National Trails Day Event**  
**Hike Leaders: Laura Bales, Cheryl Steindorf, and Laurie Wilhite**

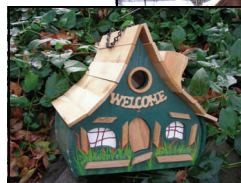
**Klickitat to Pitt,** Our last hike of the season. This is a very scenic stretch of the trail and follows the Klickitat River the entire way. Depending on the weather this will either be a one-way 3 mile hike or round-trip 6 mile hike. Bring lunch and water. Parts of the trail are rocky so hiking boots are advised. **Meeting Place: 9:30 AM Lyle Trailhead** or at 10:00 AM at **Pitt Trailhead**

## A Friend of the Trail

By Barbara Robinson

If you start a hike on the trail at Pitt (the row of houses after the bridge about 10 miles up the Klickitat from Lyle) you may meet Harold Wethered. Harold lives in the log-sided house with cute bird houses in the yard, and he might come over to say Hi, offer you a trail map, and answer your questions about the trail. Harold and his wife Evelyn retired here in 1999. As a boy he used to come out to the Klickitat from his home in Camas with a neighbor who was a fur trapper, so he knows the area well. He also knows carpentry. For 21 years he worked as a cabinet maker, and now his hobby is creating and building bird houses, yard ornaments, and folding tables in all sorts of styles. If it has anything to do with carpentry, from fixing a loose chair leg to cutting a certain shape of board, Harold probably can show you how to do it.

A few years ago the portapotty that KTC rents for the Pitt trailhead was vandalized and we moved its location. Harold has kept an eye on it ever since, and he noticed that handicapped people were sometimes trying to use it. He suggested that KTC rent a handicapped-accessible portapotty, so we did. Many times Harold has helped hikers at the trailhead who were confused. It is wonderful to have a friend of the trail like Harold. He sees what is happening and when people need help, he cares enough to go out of his way to help them. Thank you, Harold!



## New Kiosk in Klickitat

by Barbara Robinson



Sunday October 7th Jim Denton led a work party to put up the kiosk in Klickitat. This all came about as a result of grant money from the Kodak Grant American Greenways Awards Program. Pam and Steve Essley, Bev Linde, Cheryl Steindorf, and Mitch (Irv) Mitchell worked all day, until 6:00 PM, to put it up. The hardest part was digging two 3 foot deep holes for the posts, including removing a rock about 1 ½ ft. long, which alone took about two hours. Jim had done the design, pre-cut all the wood, and had it all planned out. Everyone worked very hard and the kiosk is great! It has a railroad station look to it, and Jim routed out the word "Klickitat" on one side and "Wrights" (the original name of Klickitat in 1903 when the rail-



road started service) on the other side.

A few days later, Jim put a dark gray asphalt shingle roof on the kiosk, with Bev and Barbara helping. We also picked up trash, and Barbara pruned blackberries near Lyle afterward. On both work days a number of people stopped to talk to us. With the new surface, more people are definitely using the trail.

Jim, you did an amazing job designing the kiosk, cutting the wood, and planning the work party. You and your work crew have made something that we can all be proud of.

## Klickitat Trail News

### Membership Update

This past summer, the Klickitat Trail Conservancy embarked on a very successful membership drive to increase KTC membership, encourage additional volunteers for the trail, and build leadership on the board. Funded through a grant by the Kongsgaard/Goldman Foundation awarded to The Friends of the Columbia Gorge on behalf of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy, we are delighted to welcome 99 brand new members to the KTC. As a membership incentive, the Columbia Gorge Environmental Foundation matched membership dollars received from this drive at a rate of 2:1. Thank you to our generous supporters and welcome to our newest members.

### E-Mail List

Want to learn about Klickitat Trail events and newsworthy happenings through periodic e-mails? Join Klickitat Trail Conservancy's "Klickitat Trail News" e-mail list. Some of you are already on the e-mail distribution list and do not need to re-subscribe. For new members wishing to subscribe, or to update your e-mail information, send e-mail to [info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:info@klickitat-trail.org) with "SUBSCRIBE klickitat-trail.news firstname lastname" in the subject heading of your e-mail (replacing firstname with your first name and lastname with your last name). To unsubscribe, e-mail [info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:info@klickitat-trail.org) with "UNSUBSCRIBE klickitat-trail.news" in the heading. Because we respect your online time and Internet privacy, please be assured KTC will never share your e-mail address with third parties.

# Mountain Biking the Klickitat Trail

## Handy tips and general information for having a fun ride

By Bob Hansen

There are a variety of ways to bike the Klickitat Trail. From a jaunt through the town of Klickitat, to an extreme 51 mile loop over paved roads and unpaved trail, the possibilities are endless. The Klickitat Trail offers the beginning mountain biker a wonderful opportunity to ride a variety of surfaces, while not being too technical or difficult. The experienced mountain biker will find the Klickitat Trail a hidden Gorge gem just waiting to be explored. You can bike the trail in round-trip sections, or you can organize a car shuttle and accomplish one way rides.

As you travel along the trail, you will see silver and black mileage marker signs, remnants of the original railroad. They approximate the down grade distance remaining to the Lyle trailhead, at SR 14. I recommend mountain biking toward Lyle, or downhill.

### Biking Tips for the Klickitat Trail

- Expect to take 3 to 5 hours to bike the entire trail.
- Front suspension for you bike is recommended.
- Carry at least 3 liters of water on a hot day. You can refill water bottles in the town of Klickitat.
- Slime in your inner tubes will help prevent flats. Carry a tire repair kit. The yellow-star thistle burrs, a.k.a. goat's head, are notorious for puncturing tires.
- Bikers need to exit the trail at Schilling Road, and re-connect in the town of Klickitat via SR 142.
- Carry extra food, sun cream and a first aid kit.
- Beware of ticks, poison oak and rattlesnakes. Lyme Disease is in the area, check for ticks!
- There is currently no predictable cell phone coverage on the trail, especially in remote Swale Canyon.
- The only way in or out of Swale Canyon is at the trailheads.
- Stay on the trail. Private property abuts the trail in most places.
- Swale Canyon is closed seasonally due to fire danger, usually mid-June- October 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit [www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org) for up-to-date information.



### General Information to Plan a Successful Trail Ride

There is rock debris scattered frequently along cliff faces. A lot of rock has been moved aside, but it is necessary to be vigilant for large and/or sharp rock debris. Fences have cropped up recently, but they are easy to see in advance. Fences mean you must dismount you bike, open the gate and **close** the gate behind you. The trail is in open range country, so you **must** close the gates behind you and be watchful of cattle. There are a few technical washouts and dip-de-dos along the way to provide some fun, but never are there any serious technical obstacles that will prevent you from having a pleasant ride. If you come across a section of the trail that you don't feel comfortable riding, dismount you bike and walk around the obstacle. These technical sections are never very long.

The Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) has port-a-potties at three or four locations, depending on the season. They can be found at the Lyle trailhead (intersection of SR 14 and 142), Pitt (on the west side, or downstream, of 142), at Wahkiakus (southwest of Schilling Road) and at Harms Road (this one is removed seasonally when Swale Canyon is closed by Washington State Parks due to wildfire danger). For more information on trailhead locations visit, [www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org).

## Klickitat Trail is Recognized Nationally

Donna Enz

In November the Klickitat Trail was recognized by the National Rails-to-Trails Conservancy as its trail of the month. Since 1986 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has had a hand in creating 13,935 miles of rail-trails nationwide. The Klickitat Trail is one of them. There are 100,000 members and supporters nationally. Read the great article on their Website at [www.railtrails.org](http://www.railtrails.org)

The Klickitat Trail was also featured in a recent issue of the Washington Trails Association's magazine. The author, Susan Saul, is on the advisory board for WTA. She hiked the Klickitat Trail in October on a scheduled anniversary hike. To view this article go to: <http://www.railstotrails.org/nesandpubs/trailofthemonth/archives/0711.html>.

Local support and volunteer work has helped the Klickitat Trail Conservancy make the Klickitat Trail one of the premiere trails in Southern Washington. For information and dates of scheduled hikes go to our Website. [www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org).

# Eagle Spotting at Balfour/Klickitat Park

## January 5, 2008

Donna Enz

From Balfour/Klickitat park or the Klickitat Trail eagle viewing is a must in January. So with typical January weather in the forecast we were armed with umbrellas and rain parkas. Just in time the skies parted and the weather cooperated. Our eager group was armed with binoculars and spotting scopes and all eyes were focused. The eagles did not disappoint. We counted 20 or more at the mouth of the Klickitat River, another 20 or more soaring above the cove. Eight in this tree, four in another. On and on the counting continued. The eagles were everywhere. In addition we saw a flock of turkeys and a deer right behind us. Salmon were making thier way up the small tributary that leads into the pond area. And we learned many new and interesting facts. How long do eagles live? How many feathers does an eagle have? How heavy is an eagle's nest? We also learned there will be changes to the viewing areas. To prevent disturbing the eagles the Forest Service has decided to make the cove area off limits until the end of March. They are also in the process of creating blinds for birders to use which will be "bird friendly". Cathy Flick gave 22 of us a memorable and informative morning. Yes, Cathy, "birds rule"! We will be back.



## Property Near Trail Purchased

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has purchased the property formerly owned by Stanley Crocker, located on the Centerville Highway, west of Harms Road. Since the trailhead at Harms Road has inadequate parking space the Klickitat Trail planning team, which includes Washington State Parks and the US Forest Service, support entering into a management agreement to use part of the property for a future trailhead. This property will also offer a connection to the Columbia Hills State Park area on The Dalles Mountain.

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