



Klickitat Trail Conservancy

TRAIL NOTES

Spring 2005



Klickitat Trail History 101

Some highlights of the railroad line that once stretched from Lyle to Goldendale

As you hike and bike on the Klickitat Trail, it is hard not to wonder what it was like when a railroad line occupied the landscape. The evidence that sparks the imagination is everywhere – old rail spikes, mileage markers, cables, and the actual rail corridor that makes it such a perfect trail.

The Klickitat Trail Conservancy is working not only to preserve and promote the public use of the trail, but also to capture the trail's history and keep its story alive. We asked local railroad historian Jesse Burkhardt to help us begin to understand the trail's railroad past.

The Goldendale Branch of the SP&S

By Jesse Burkhardt

The Columbia River & Northern Railroad completed a feeder line from Lyle to Goldendale in April 1903 ... and then had to wait five years until the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway reached Lyle with its east-west mainline, thus providing the CR&N with an outlet. With the arrival of the SP&S, Lyle was to become a vital shipping point for sheep and wheat. Centerville, at SP&S Milepost 35.9, was a one of the region's important wheat-growing areas in this era.

The SP&S purchased the 42-mile Columbia River & Northern Railroad line that ran from Lyle to Goldendale in March 1908, after the SP&S mainline through the Gorge was completed. The line, which paralleled the scenic Klickitat River for much of its route, became the Goldendale Branch of the SP&S. The Goldendale Branch was the only SP&S branchline in Washington.

In the 1920s, SP&S operated a daily passenger train from Portland to Goldendale and back. This schedule continued for several years, until the highway opened between Klickitat and Lyle and automobile travel became a more convenient option.

The SP&S provided daily freight service to serve the town of Klickitat's lumber mill, which was less than a quarter mile north of the depot in Klickitat (Milepost 13.4). The SP&S based a local crew at nearby Lyle to serve the mill and other stations along the 42-mile branchline to Goldendale. The St. Regis Paper Co. took over operations at the Klickitat sawmill from the J. Neils Lumber Co. in January 1957.

A logging railroad known as the Klickitat Log & Lumber Co., a subsidiary of St. Regis, connected with the SP&S tracks at

Klickitat. The KL&L operated logging trains that wound through the woods north from the St. Regis mill in Klickitat. Logs were loaded onto flatcars in the woods for transport back to the mill. The company's logging lines reached from the Klickitat sawmill to within "whistle distance" of Mount Adams. At one time, logging spur lines reached as much as 75 miles out of Klickitat, stretching almost to the White Salmon River north of Trout Lake, and it is estimated that between 1939-1964, the logging trains hauled 133,900 cars of pine logs to the Klickitat sawmill, at a rate of 30-35 cars daily. The SP&S Goldendale Branch was the KL&L's connection to the outside world.



Evidence of the trail's recent railroad past is evident in Swale Canyon. These spring hikers journey over one of many old trestle bridges that span Swale Creek. Photo: B. Robinson

The SP&S was merged into the newly formed Burlington Northern Railroad in 1970.

In the early 1990s, due to declining traffic on the Goldendale Branch, the BN line was taken out of service. In 1993, the rails and ties were removed from the branchline. The closure of the mill at Klickitat in the early 1990s was one of the key reasons the branchline was abandoned.



Look for more history of the Klickitat Trail in upcoming issues of **Trail Notes**. If you would like to know more about local railroad history, Jesse Burkhardt spotlights the history of railroads in the region, including on the Goldendale Branch, in his new book, "*Images of Rail: Railroads of the Columbia River Gorge*." The 128-page softcover book, published in September 2004 by Arcadia Publishing, features dozens of historical photographs. It retails for \$19.99, and can be found at local bookstores.

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Trail Voices notes and letters

Dear Klickitat Trail Conservancy,

On November 26, 2004, a group of 8 riders from Portland and Vancouver completed an incredible ride in Klickitat County, which included the entire Klickitat Trail. We started in Lyle, WA (42-44 degrees), with 8 riders (2 on cross bikes with narrow tires, the rest on mountain bikes). We followed the trail to the top of Swale Canyon, and then returned to Lyle via (paved) Centerville Highway.

Along the way we saw two adult bald eagles, several blue herons, a pair of fighting kestrels and numerous chickadees and ducks. Near the town of Klickitat the temperature rose to 52 degrees. We left the town and entered Swale canyon at Schilling Rd. The temperature dropped in the canyon shade, but climbed once we hit the bridge at Horseshoe Bend and escaped the canyon shade.

Four of us continued up Swale Canyon, and the rest headed back to Lyle via hwy 142. It's too bad they turned back, because they missed the best part of the ride (and the worst).

Swale Canyon is a 3% incline, mostly gravel, but a few sections have heavy gravel, and one section has a creek washout that forced some of us to carry our bikes a few feet. The canyon was eerily quiet after we left the last "homestead" trailer house.

You can clearly see the rain shadow effect in Swale Canyon with Ponderosa Pine and a fir trees on one side of the canyon, and desert scrub on the other side.

In the upper canyon, we stopped and chatted with two families from Bend and Hood River. They were on bikes too, with 4 kids (ages 6 to 11) on bikes. The two little ones were riding kiddies bikes. I'm sure they had to push them back up the canyon, especially in the heavy gravel sections near the top.

Once we exited Swale canyon, we took Harms Road to the Centerville Hwy. We had a headwind, and the temperature dropped to the low 40's (closer to 22-25 degrees with the windchill factor). I was expecting one or two hills before the big downhill into Lyle - boy, were we surprised. We climbed another 600-700 feet before the road finally dropped into Lyle.



Joe Hamilton of Vancouver, WA leads a fall bike ride up the Klickitat Trail. Photo: J. Hamilton

Westside Riders, continued page 7

State Park Commissioner Expresses Commitment to the Klickitat Trail

Dear Klickitat Trail Conservancy,

As a dual citizen of Yakima and Lyle, and one of your state park commissioners, I would like to express my perspective about our wonderful Klickitat Trail and how it fits with the Commission's vision. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to do this!

First, I'd like to talk about the **Commission's Vision 2013**. That's the year your park system turns 100. Your commissioners have adopted a Centennial 2013 vision; the Klickitat Trail is an important part of that vision. We have said that, "In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for public experience, health, enjoyment and learning." Now, if the Klickitat Trail isn't all of that, I don't know what is!

Our plan to get there includes a commitment to safeguard our existing parks and facilities; create a legacy of new and improved parks, trails and resources; and form 100 connections or partnerships to provide new park features. Trails are a vital part of our vision for all three of these areas. The Klickitat Trail is specifically included as one of the 100 connections: trailheads, visitor information, and public restrooms. The KTC may well be our partner on this connection and could help bring in other local partners to share in the investment.

As your local commissioner, I want you to know that I am a huge supporter of this vision and the specific vision for the Klickitat Trail. I'll continue working closely with both local rangers and the folks in Olympia to keep our beautiful trail on the radar and ensure we make progress every year. Of course, we couldn't do

it without KTC, a dedicated group of folks who have really made the trail what it is. I look forward to continue working with them, too.

Almost every time my husband and I are in Lyle, we visit the trail. We participate in KTC functions as often as possible. I communicate regularly with KTC officers and keep up to speed on your activities. In Yakima, we talk about the trail and get many questions from interested trails fans (yes, people in Yakima have been following our progress on the trail and are visitors and supporters.) At commission meetings, I talk about the trail and KTC activities and push very hard for good policy for all of our trails. We even pushed hard for a state trails coordinator and updated trails plan. Joe Sobinovski is the coordinator who has done a great job working with a group of people to update the plan (which the commissioners have adopted) and has met with trail groups throughout the state.

I love and enjoy trails, all kinds of trails, and have spent a career working and advocating for them. This passion will continue and the Klickitat Trail will always hold a special place in my heart and life as I continue to work with KTC members and just get out on the trail! Please check the state park's web site to learn more about our Centennial 2013 Vision and other parks activities: www.parks.wa.gov and feel free to contact me personally with your issues and concerns: ceciliaevelyn@charter.net.

Cecelia Vogt
State Park Commissioner

KTC Spring & Summer Events & Happenings

The following are KTC scheduled events. Everyone is welcome! Please visit www.klickitat-trail.org for more details, schedule changes, maps and trailhead locations.

Pets and smoking are not allowed on KTC sponsored hikes. Stay on the trail at all times!

The **Lyle trailhead** is located in Lyle, WA on SR 14, across from Greg Colt Realty.

The **Klickitat railroad park** is located in the town of Klickitat, one block south of the of the gas station.

March 5, Saturday

Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge. 8 mile hike next to the Klickitat River. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am.

April 2, Saturday #1

Biking Event. Bike either the entire 31 miles or use a shuttle for half the distance. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. \$10 per rider shuttle fee. R.S.V.P. (509) 365-2404

April 2, Saturday #2

13 mile **Swale Canyon hike.** Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. Expect to return at 5 pm.

April 17, Sunday

Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge. 8 mile hike next to the Klickitat River. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am.

May 7, Saturday #1

13 mile **Swale Canyon** "peak of flower bloom" **hike.** Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. Expect to return at 5 pm.

May 7, Saturday #2

Biking Event. Bike either the entire 31 miles or use a shuttle for half the distance. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. \$10 per rider shuttle fee. R.S.V.P. @ info@klickitat-trail.org.

May 15, Sunday

6 mile **Wahkiakus to Suburbia** round-trip hike. Meet at the Klickitat railroad park at 10 am.

June 4, Saturday

13 mile **Swale Canyon** hike – official National Trails Day event. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. Expect to return at 5 pm.

June 19, Sunday

6 mile **Wahkiakus to Suburbia** round-trip hike. Meet at the Klickitat railroad park at 10 am.

July 2, Saturday

Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge. 8 mile hike next to the Klickitat River. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am.

July 31, Sunday

Klickitat "**Canyon Days**" celebration Meet at the railroad park in Klickitat at 9 am for a 3 hour hike.

August 6, Saturday

3rd annual celebration of the opening of the trail. 8 mile hike **Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge hike & BBQ.** Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am. Hike will be followed by a potluck **BBQ** at the Klickitat railroad park at 4 pm. All trail supporters are invited to the BBQ. Beat the heat by jumping into the Klickitat town swimming hole.

September 3, Saturday

Pitt to Fisher Hill Bridge. 8 mile hike next to the Klickitat River. Meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9 am.

UNDELIVERABLES

We send out timely information to anyone who wants it by way of an email "listserv". We need to keep it up-to-date, or we suffer a bad case of bouncing emails.

We also mail out newsletters to all members and interested parties. This information needs periodic updating as well.

Please take the time to update your email address or mailing address by sending a note to us at info@klickitat-trail.org, subject line "contact info. update".

Thank so much!
KTC Volunteers

Work It!

Join Barbara Robinson for KTC work parties. Help improve and maintain the trail. Meet at Lyle trailhead at 9 am through May 16, then at 8 am starting June 5, to beat the heat. Other work parties may be scheduled later to do work jointly with Washington State Parks staff. These will be announced by email.

Work Party Dates: June 18 (Saturday)
March 20 (Sunday) July 3 (Sunday)
April 16 (Saturday) July 17 (Sunday)
May 16 (Monday) August 7 (Sunday)
June 5 (Sunday) Sept. 18 (Sunday)

Family Rambles

Join Pam Springer on kid-paced trail hikes. Hikes are usually 3 mile round trips, and last about 2 to 3 hours. Come prepared, bring snacks & water. (509) 365-3866 for more information.

March 16: Lyle trailhead at 10 am

April 13: Lyle trailhead at 10 am

May 18: Lyle trailhead at 10 am

June 15: Lyle trailhead at 10 am

July 13: Lyle trailhead at 9 am.

August 17: Lyle trailhead at 9 am

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.



These guys are having WAY too much fun. This biking group from the Portland/Vancouver area enjoys a November day on the trail. Photo: J. Hamilton

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.

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 your bike, open the gate

One popular bike route starts with a car shuttle from the trailhead at Lyle to either the Harms Road or the Centerville Highway trail crossings, then bike the trail back to Lyle.

This ride is approximately 30 miles. A shorter 12 mile ride starts at Harms Road and ends at the parking lot at the Wahkiakus trailhead, where your second vehicle is waiting.

Another excellent route is the Pitt-to-Lyle ride. Leave a car at the Fisher Hill Bridge (8.5 miles) or the Lyle trailhead (10.2 miles), drive to Pitt and then bike back to your car.

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 your 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).



Biking Tips for the Klickitat Trail

- Expect to take 3 to 5 hours to bike the entire trail.
- Front **suspension** for your 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. See **Trail Descriptions** for more details.
- 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 1st. Visit **www.klickitat-trail.org** for up-to-date information.

Mountain Biking the Klickitat Trail

Trail descriptions and mileage information

Trail descriptions, including mile markers and mileage, starting at Uecker Road. The numbers in parentheses reflect the mile points, or distances, from the start of the trail at Uecker Road, moving downgrade toward Lyle. Visit www.klickitat-trail.org for a map.

Far East End of the Trail 2.2 miles

Uecker Road (0.0) to Centerville Highway (often referred to as Warwick) (0.6) and Harms Road (2.20)

Uecker Road is the easterly end of the Klickitat Trail and ties directly into The Dalles Mountain Road to the south. However, most start either at Centerville Highway or Harms Road. This is one of the flattest sections of the trail, a high prairie setting with distant views of surrounding hills. There are no trees, only shrubby vegetation in the riparian corridor that parallels the trail. Currently, there is parking on the south and east side of the trail, where it crosses Centerville Highway. Trail bed is in good condition, with grasses and small vegetation growing on the trail. Close all gates behind you.

Swale Canyon 12 miles

Harms Road (2.20) to Schilling Road (14.17)

This remote section of trail is generally in good shape, with several interesting trestle bridges. One washed out section requires a brief bike walk, and one debris mound about ¼ mile down trail from the big washout is fun for those hungry for a technical challenge. This section of trail is generally closed from June through September, sometimes later, depending on fire conditions. Check www.klickitat-trail.org, or call Columbia Hills office of Washington State Parks, (509) 767-1159, to determine if Swale Canyon is open during this period.

Wahkiacus to Klickitat 2.5 miles

Schilling Road (14.17) to the town of Klickitat (17.54)

At Schilling Road, you will find a KTC port-a-potty in the parking area. For biking, you must exit the Klickitat Trail at Schilling road because the trail dead ends downstream. To reunite with the trail, turn right onto Schilling Road (gravel), then left on to Horseshoe Bend Road (paved) and continue across the concrete bridge across the Klickitat River to SR 142. This area is called Wahkiacus. Turn left onto SR142 and bike 3 miles to the town of Klickitat.

Klickitat (17.54) to Pitt (20.73) 3.2 miles

The Klickitat Trail is west of, and adjacent to, the small community park in town center. Once on the trail, head south, crossing SR 142, proceed past small rural homesteads. The trail is a bit rocky and sandy in places, particularly in the section parallel and adjacent to SR 142. It crosses a wetland that many walk their bikes around. There is also a section of the roadbed that has been washed out for about 100 yards. A trail has been bushwhacked at the toe of the road slope, but at this time is generally not rideable. Prior to the bushwhacking, the standard approach was to climb the road embankment with your bike, climb over the guard rail and ride the pavement about 100 yards to the dirt access road used by fishermen. This section of trail is probably the worst for getting flat tires from “goat’s head” and star thistle.

Pitt (20.73) to

Fisher Hill Road (29.23) 8.5 miles

Pleasant ride through open areas and pine forests. Short dips and rock piles keep you from drifting off into la-la land. Several gates need to be opened and closed near Pitt. Always close gates behind you. Do not leave the trail to visit the Yakama Nation fishing area. This is private tribal land. Exit the trail at the large, concrete Fisher Hill Road Bridge, onto the road (the old railroad bridge is currently unsafe, and is closed to the public). Fisher Hill Road crosses under the rail trestle bridge. Turn right onto SR 142 and return to trail on the right.

Fisher Hill Road (29.23) to

SR 14 (30.98) in Lyle 1.7 miles

Black rock ballast (2” to 3”) along this section of trail is soft and requires you to keep up your momentum. Eventually the Forest Service will pave this section of the trail to make it ADA accessible for all, including seniors, toddlers, walkers and joggers. There is a port-a-potty tucked in the trees at the parking area adjacent to SR 14 between the Klickitat River and SR 142.

Trail Shuttle Service

Rhonda Vogt (509) 369-4578

Johny & Billie Clarence (509) 369-2662

call for details and shuttle service prices

Spring Wildflowers

By Barbara Robinson

Wildflowers can be found all along the trail, but are more profuse in some areas than others. Some of my favorite wildflower places are in the first three miles north of the Fisher Hill Bridge, the four miles of Swale Canyon west of Harms Rd., the half mile east of Harms Rd., and some choice wet cliff areas.

One of these wet cliffs is about a mile north of Pitt, another one is 1.5 miles south of Wahkiacus, and a couple more are two or three miles south of Pitt. Wet cliffs and rocky areas bloom earliest, peaking in March, with mossy gardens of delicate beauties such as pink prairie stars, purple grass widows, small white saxifrages, and yellow gold stars.

Many of the desert parsleys bloom in March and early April, such as the purple Columbia desert parsley and the yellow pungent desert parsley. These beautiful, large flowers form extensive dense stands in late March and early April along and above my favorite Swale Canyon section, and many may be seen in the stretch north of the Fisher Hill Bridge.

Western Buttercups, white popcorn flowers, occasional purple shooting stars (or bird's beaks), and a few delicate white Dutchman's breeches add to the show at that time. By mid-April, serviceberry bushes are turning white with flowers and Oregon grape with yellow.



Balsamroot blankets steep slopes and rock hillsides throughout Klickitat County. Remote Swale Canyon provides hikers and bikers an excellent chance to witness this flower drama in person. Photo: MAC

In the last half of April and early May, balsamroots (sunflowers) hit their peak, and the lupines follow close behind. From the Swale Canyon trail you can look up and see hillsides of Balsamroot in

places, and the trail just east of Harms Rd. is surrounded by a sea of purple lupine. Lupine and balsamroot bloom are also abundant next to the trail and above it in the section of trail one to three miles north of the Fisher Hill Bridge.

Peaking in early or mid-May, Swale Canyon near Harms Rd., also displays our native pink phlox, and white and yellow buckwheats. The bushes covered with white flowers in mid-May are mainly mock orange and choke cherry.



Klickitat Trail flower expert, Barbara Robinson, stands next to a hillside of Ceanothus, which blooms in May, and is often called deer brush. Photo: L. Conway

From mid-May to mid-June, some of our showiest non-native flowers bloom. At the Lyle trailhead, and in other places, you can see blue bachelor buttons and purple vetch, as well as native California poppies and yarrow. From Wahkiacus to Suburbia is an unusual non-native, bouncing Bet, which is an old-time flower garden flower that looks like a large light pink phlox, and was sometimes used in the old days as a soap substitute.

After mid-June the big flower show is over, but there are still nice surprises. One mile south of Wahkiacus, at the remains of the old gas ice factory, where fizzy mineral water still bubbles up from a pipe, you may be startled in July by the dramatic yellow flowers of the blazing star. Other surprises I will leave for you to discover. Russ Jolley's book, *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge*, is the "flower bible" for our area and will help you identify what you find. Happy hunting!

Kidding Around the Trail

By Kevin Gorman

A daunting realization of new parents is the reality that you can no longer hike wherever you want. After the initial anger and denial subsides comes the realization that you can hike...as long as you do it on your child's terms.

The Klickitat Trail offers wonderful opportunities for parents to reacquaint themselves with nature, and their children to discover it. Here are some suggestions, happy trails!

Babies (4 - 18 months) Nestled in a backpack, they will spend most of the time sleeping. Whatever trail segment you enjoy, they'll enjoy, just keep them out of the sun!

Toddlers (18 months to 3 years) The stretch from Lyle to the Fisher Hill Bridge is perfect for this age: wide, flat, lots of things to look at. They will be much more interesting in what is three feet away than the stunning vista you are enjoying. But keep them off the Fisher Hill trestle!

Youngsters

(3 to 6 years old) Longer hikes are possible, particularly if you let them invite a friend. Try the Wahkiacus to Suburbia stretch, which includes the old mineral spring.

Pre-teens (6 to 12 years old)

This is good time to take advantage of the trail points with river access (make sure you're not trespassing) for eagle and salmon watching.

Teens (13 and above) If your teen likes off-road biking, the 15-mile trek through Swale Canyon could be a wonderful parent-child bonding opportunity. Bring water and equipment to change a flat tire!



Author's daughter (center with hat) enjoys a kids' hike with KTC board member Barbara Robinson. Photo: K. Gorman

Swale Canyon Hike Marks National Trails Day

On June 4, the Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) joins the American Hiking Society in celebrating the 13th annual National Trails Day with a Swale Canyon hike. This will be the first time that the Conservancy has participated in the National Trails Day event.

Founded in 1976, American Hiking Society is the only national conservation-based recreation organization dedicated to establishing, protecting and maintaining the nation's footpaths and promoting the hiking experience. With a strong membership base of individual hikers and hiking clubs, the American Hiking Society represents more than half a million outdoors people and serves as the voice of the American hiker.

Jim Minick, KTC president says, "We are excited to be a part of this event, in celebration of trails, and hiking and biking on them. On National Trails Day, we will take hikers through Swale Canyon, which is located east of the Cascade Mountains foothills. Swale Canyon is a remote, 1,500 foot basalt gorge. For the first ten miles of the hike, there are no homes or roads. There will be an abundance of late spring wildflowers, birds and other wildlife."

Please bring 2 quarts of water, sunscreen, a first-aid kit, lunch and a hat. Wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots. Be prepared to hike the entire 13 miles, as there is no access in or out of the canyon once you leave the trailhead.



Jim Minick, Joe Kelsey and friends enjoy a beautiful spring hike in remote Swale Canyon.
Photo: B. Robinson

Meet **Saturday, June 4, at 9 am** at the Lyle trailhead, which is located directly across from Greg Colt Realty on SR 14. Car shuttles will be arranged at this time. The hike will commence at Harms Road at 10:30 am. Hikers can expect to return to their cars at the Lyle trailhead at approximately 5 pm. Check our website (www.klickitat-trail.org) a few days before for a weather forecast and updates.

National Trails Day events are hosted by local and statewide trail clubs, city, state and federal public land or health agencies, community groups, businesses and other non-profit organizations. Since its launch in 1993, National Trail Day has grown from 100 registered events attended by 10,000 people, to nearly a thousand events attended by an estimated 105,000 outdoor recreationists in 2004.

To learn more about the American Hiking Society's National Trail Day 2005, please visit www.NationalTrailsDay.org.



The Multnomah Athletic Club (MAC), from SW Portland, spent a weekend last April hiking the trail. 25 people journeyed east to enjoy the trail. After a full day of hiking the "Lyle" end of the trail, they gathered at the Lyle Hotel for some great wine, conversation and an excellent dinner. A moonlight walk ended the evening, and a good night sleep at the hotel prepared them for another day on the trail. 14 MAC bikers spent the second day exploring Swale Canyon. Bob Hansen, of the Conservancy, lead the bike both days. Flowers, owls, beautiful weather and trail history "wowed" the group, and MAC plan to return to the trail this spring to do it all again. **Photo: MAC**

Westside Riders, continued from page 2

It seemed like after every little downhill we had another hill to climb, but we had nice views into Swale Canyon and Mt Adams in the distance.

We rolled into Lyle 44 total miles later, with a ride time of 4:14. We averaged 10.3 mph, and climbed a total of 2000 feet. We experienced one "goat's head" flat on a fat tire mountain bike, and two pinch flats on the cross bikes with the narrow tires.

This is a great route for Westside Cascade residents looking for a drier ride. I recommend checking forecasts before heading out. I'd hate to be in Swale Canyon in a rainstorm in late November or early March. Good weather links to check are:

- ◆ www.accuweather.com
- ◆ www.uswx.com
- ◆ www.intellicast.com

Enter Lyle (98635), Klickitat (98628) and Goldendale (98620) for your reports. The Klickitat forecast gives you a good reading on the mid section of this ride. The Goldendale forecast will give you the upper Swale Canyon and Centerville Hwy section forecast. This area of the route is exposed to the elements and one can experience high headwinds on the return route.

Joe Hamilton
Vancouver, WA

Klickitat Trail Conservancy
PO Box 512
Lyle, WA 98635
info@klickitat-trail.org
www.klickitat-trail.org

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, pictures and comments can be sent to: PO Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635 or info@klickitat-trail.org.

Editor: Lisa Conway

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Klickitat Trail Map Available!

download your free copy @
www.klickitat-trail.org/map.htm

Walker-Macy, a landscape architecture firm from Portland, Oregon, has been diligently working (pro bono) on a much needed map of the Klickitat Trail.

According to Ben Johnson, from Walker-Macy, “we are 99.9% complete with the design of the map. The remaining step is to get financial support from local advertisers. Advertiser support will allow the KTC to give the maps away for free.”

Johnson adds, “Over the past year, I have had the pleasure of working with the KTC developing the trail map. Thank you to the KTC for allowing me to contribute to this great project.”

While the map has not yet gone to press, it is available to anyone, for free, on the KTC website.

Our thanks to Ben Johnson and Walker-Macy for helping KTC reach this milestone.

If you are interested in advertising on the trail map,
please contact the Conservancy at
info@klickitat-trail.org.

YES! You can count on my **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP** to help preserve and promote the public use of the Klickitat Trail! As a member, I strongly support the purposes, goals and objectives of the Klickitat Trail Conservancy.

- \$25 (standard)** **\$500**
- \$50** **\$_____**
- \$100**
- \$250**

Name _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail to:
KTC
PO Box 512
Lyle, WA 98635

- Add me to the KTC listserv, an email list for sharing timely information about the trail, including hike updates, work party information, fresh news, and events.
- I am interested in volunteering for trail work.
- I am interested in being more involved in the KTC organization in the following areas:

Comments?