

**Klickitat
Trail
Conservancy**



Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Klickitat Trail

Spring 2014

Dear KTC Members and Supporters,

There is never a dull moment on the Klickitat Trail. In March, the U.S. Supreme Court made a decision involving an abandoned rail line and trail. The ruling did not legally affect the Klickitat Trail in any way, because our rail corridor is "rail-banked" and not legally considered abandoned. That fact, however, did not stop some trail opponents from persuading the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners that the ruling applied to the Klickitat Trail, and in turn, the Commissioners requested Washington State Parks to close the trail. When asked during a radio interview on April 17th what would happen if State Parks refused to close the Trail, Rex Johnston (the Commissioner representing White Salmon, Higgs, Trout Lake, and western Klickitat County) replied, "I imagine the property owners could put gates and 'No Trespassing' signs up if they chose to, and then deal with it in that manner, and, you know, have people arrested who cross the property or attempt to cross the property and then go to court from them..." Soon thereafter, 'No Trespassing' signs did go up. A Central Oregon Community College hiking group called the Klickitat County Sheriff's office when they encountered these signs and were told that yes, indeed, they would be arrested, and so they cancelled the hike they had planned in Swale Canyon. When KTC learned about this, we mobilized by contacting our wonderful lawyer Charles Montague, Washington State Parks, and the Washington Attorney General's office. What followed was various communications making clear to the Klickitat County Commissioners, Prosecuting Attorney, and Sheriff that the Klickitat Trail was completely legal, nothing had changed with the Supreme Court ruling, and that it was illegal to block access to the Trail or arrest people for being on it. In conjunction with the Washington Attorney General, Washington State Parks issued a press release on May 8th stating the Supreme Court ruling has no effect on any of the five rail-trails in Washington. A copy of the press release is posted at each of the Trail's access points.

Other than that, it has been a lovely spring with many fine hikes, and a great deal has been accomplished on the trail in the last 12 years. THANK YOU so much for all your support. Spring is the time of year we ask you to renew your annual membership with KTC. Your membership is crucial to the Trail's existence and progress. Because of KTC's collaboration with agencies and landowners, ongoing support by membership, as well as our thousands of volunteer hours, the Trail is open, well-maintained, and gaining popularity.

Some Highlights of 2013 and Preview into 2014:

- Successful 2nd Annual Half-marathon and 5K run/walk that started in Lyle, finished in Klickitat; looking forward to 3rd Annual in November 2014
- Klickitat Trail awarded Best Mountain Hiking Trail by visitors to BestOfTheGorge.com
- More treaties in Swale Canyon
- Work Parties improving and maintaining the Trail
- Dining and Wildflower hikes for enjoyment and education

- Coming soon will be our upgraded website with secure online renewal capability
- June 1st marked our first annual Kids Bike Ride from Lytle Trailhead to Fisher Hill Bridge and back, nature hunt along the way, planting native wildflower seeds, and lots of fun and adventure.

KTC is the only organization dedicated solely to making sure the Klickitat Trail becomes a wonderful resource for all to enjoy. Because we are a volunteer organization, every dollar raised goes directly to trail improvements and maintenance. For those who live near the Trail, we hope you will consider taking an active role in Trail maintenance, such as a KTC "Work Party," or perhaps consider becoming a KTC Board Member. In a variety of ways, your support is vital to the continuing success of the Klickitat Trail.

Our hard-working volunteers ask you to *please renew your annual membership today*. We thank you for your past support. We have worked so hard for the past dozen years to make this Trail a reality, and we hope that you will continue to support us, or join us, for the next dozen years!

Thank you,



KTC President

Please renew your 2014 ANNUAL membership in the Klickitat Trail Conservancy today!

YES! You can count on my help to 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.	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 (standard)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Name _____	
Mailing address _____	Please mail to:
City, State, Zip _____	KTC
Email _____	190 Box 99
Phone _____	Lytle, WA 98625
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in volunteering for trail work	
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in being more involved in the KTC organization in the following areas:	
Comments?	

Thank you for your continuing support!

Klickitat Trail Conservancy (KTC) – P.O. Box 512 – Lytle, WA 98625

www.klickitat-trail.org / e-mail: info@klickitat-trail.org

<http://www.facebook.com/KlickitatTrail>