

KLICKITAT  
TRAIL  
CONSERVANCY



Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the Klickitat Trail

Fall 2017

Dear KTC Friends and Supporters,

Thank you so much for your loyal support. Because of your support and encouragement, many wonderful things this past year were made possible. Your financial support, plus lots of volunteer effort, allowed KTC to clean up the beautiful property along the trail bequeathed to KTC by Irvin Mitchell. Last October, with the property all cleaned up, Washington State Parks accepted KTC's donation of the property, fulfilling Irv's ultimate wish. It is now open to the public and a memorial bench honoring Irv is in the works.

Jim Denton, KTC's fantastic crew boss, organized work parties spring and summer to clear rockfall and downed trees, prune brush, and keep the trail usable. Basic trail maintenance is vital, and one of KTC's most important functions. We have worked diligently to keep vegetation under control at the Lyle trailhead, which produces a profusion of wildflowers blooming there in the spring.

When we first began working on the trail in 2002, we dreamed someday it could be used for runs...and now it is happening! We invite you to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Klickitat Trail Run on Saturday, November 4, 2017, between Lyle and Klickitat. Your choice of marathon, half-marathon, or 5-K run/walk...with hot soup, awards, and good cheer awaiting you upon your finish at the new Community Center in Klickitat. Look for a link on the KTC website for more information and early signup. Lynda Esaacson started organizing these trail runs five years ago and KTC is thrilled that she joined our board this year.

In December, 2016, KTC learned that the Klickitat Trail had been awarded a generous Washington State Parks grant to deck the trestles and improve the surface in Swale Canyon. Previously, this grant request in 2014 was unsuccessful, but then in a fortunate turn of events got awarded retroactively. This Swale project is now being planned in detail, including working with the Yakama Nation, to improve fish habitat along the creek as part of the trail work.

Three land acquisitions along the trail in Swale Canyon totaling over 500 acres have become a possibility this year. KTC sent strong letters of support, and I attended the July 13 Washington State Parks Commission meeting in Walla Walla to speak in favor of these acquisitions. I am delighted to report that the Parks Commission unanimously approved a change in the Klickitat Trail Park boundary that would include these properties and allow their purchase. The properties still need to be appraised and price negotiated, so getting them is not a sure thing.

Nevertheless, the approval of the Commission, was an all-important step and we are very hopeful that these beautiful wildlands will soon be available for hikers to explore and enjoy as part of the Klickitat Trail experience.

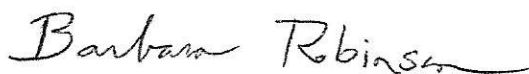
One mile north of Lyle, and adjacent to the trail, is a park. Often called the "County Park", the property is owned partly by the Forest Service and partly by Klickitat County. It is beautiful and gives river access for swimming, but gets abused with camping, trash dumping, etc. The Forest Service has just started a planning process to improve this park and KTC is participating enthusiastically, because this park should be something that trail users can walk down to and enjoy.

The Klickitat Trail is in the running for a large Washington State Parks grant that would fix the 1 mile disconnect in the trail just north of Klickitat. The most ambitious part of this grant would put a bridge over the Klickitat River at Suburbia to replace the trestle that used to be there. The grant would also put a small bridge over Snyder Creek in Klickitat to replace another missing trestle, and build one mile of trail from Klickitat to Suburbia. 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 had hoped to know about the grant by now, but the State of Washington has not yet passed a budget for capital projects, and the grant money is in that part of the budget. Our grant is in competition with other good projects around the state for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). We have hopes that enough WWRP money will be allotted in the budget to do a number of these worthy projects, including ours.

Saturday, October 14th, is KTC's annual celebration and 15<sup>th</sup> birthday party! We invite you to join us in the celebration. We plan to meet at the Lyle trailhead at 9:30 A.M. We will provide snacks and tasty treats, including smoked salmon and bagels, and offer two hikes from which to choose, one shorter and the other longer.

The entire KTC Board joins me in wanting you to know how very much we appreciate your loyal support, both through your memberships and contributions, and through the encouragement you give us. We read notes from you at every monthly Board meeting saying how much you enjoy the trail. Truly, it is you who keep us going!

With many thanks, and hoping to see you on the trail!



Barbara Robinson  
KTC President

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