



## ***Klickitat Trail 2025 Summer Newsletter***

Dear Conservancy Members and Supporters,

As of July 23, the Bourdain Fire has crossed the Klickitat River in the vicinity of Fisher Bridge. Amazingly, as of today, no part of the KT appears to have been burned. All of Lyle and the surrounding area is contained in the Level 3 evacuation order. The Lyle Trailhead is being utilized as a staging area for firefighting resources.



### **Suburbia Bridge Advances!**

During the recent state budget process, an amendment was included to fund the shortfall in funding for completing the Suburbia Bridge. This supplemental funding was necessary due to cost increases related to Covid delays and staffing cutbacks. KTC commented to the legislature regarding the importance of this funding and completing the bridge replacement.

This funding request was successful! According to planner Brian Patnode, Washington State Parks is expecting “60% construction documents” to be submitted in July. These documents will be used to obtain the required permits. They are expecting/allowing a year to obtain permits. The design will be advanced during this period, stopping around 90% until they receive all permits so that any comments, conditions or adjustments can be made/incorporated into the bid set. As the design has advanced to 60% over the last few months, Washington State Parks has also initiated Tribal Consultation on the required geotechnical borings. Those approvals have yet to be received but we expect them this summer so the drill rig can get the required information sometime in late summer or early fall. Completion is planned for 2027.

### **Swale Canyon Ribbon Cutting**

On May 8, I was honored to join Washington State Parks Director Diana Dupuis and Parks Commissioner Holly Williams for the ribbon cutting and opening of the Swale Canyon portion of the Klickitat Trail. KTC provided wonderful refreshments. The contractor, Paragon, replaced decking and added railings on the trestles, and covered many sections of railroad ballast with gravel. Following the dedication ceremony, I led a bike group, and KTC Board member Bev Linde led a hiking group.

Swale Canyon closed for the summer in early June and will reopen on October 8. At both access points to Swale Canyon, KTC maintains a porta-potty. The KTC Board is currently investigating the economics of purchase vs continued rental of these 2 units. KTC membership also supports an annual donation to the community of Klickitat, whereby they maintain the trail through the community.

### **Cascade Locks Summerfest**

KTC will be represented at Friends of the Gorge’s “Summerfest in Cascade Locks” on July 26. KTC will again be supporting the Columbia Gorge Running Club with a donation and we will be providing drinks at the “Soup-er Fun Run” on October 18.

### **New Director**

KTC is excited to introduce a new director. Welcome Kelley Beamer! Kelley and her family own land in the Klickitat River valley. She has over 20 years of experience working for conservation organizations supporting work to improve fish and wildlife habitat and connect people to nature.

Kelley was Conservation Organizer for Friends of the Columbia Gorge where she worked with communities throughout the Gorge to build public support for the National Scenic Area Act. After Friends, she became the founding Executive Director for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, where she supported a network of over 30 land trust organizations to create a united voice and advocate for programs/funding to conserve land. Recently, she became the Executive Director of East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. Kelley says, "I am interested in joining the board to contribute to the collective work of KTC and build upon the decades of investment that led to a shared trail and community asset."

KTC is membership supported! To begin or renew your membership, go to [www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org)

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[www.klickitat-trail.org](http://www.klickitat-trail.org)

Email us at [info@klickitat-trail.org](mailto:info@klickitat-trail.org)

Mailing address: P.O. Box 512, Lyle, WA 98635