



Klickitat Trail 2025 Fall Newsletter

Dear Conservancy Members and Supporters,

Obviously, the recent prominent event in the life of the Klickitat Trail was the Bourdoin Fire. The Lyle trailhead served as a fire break for the Lyle community as well as a staging area for firefighting efforts. The fire burned “over” both the trail and the Klickitat River, but miraculously, the trail was not touched! Our thoughts are with our neighbors who lost homes and businesses. KTC President Ken Hansen will be participating on a citizen committee to review fire responses and make recommendations for dealing with future disasters.



After a long history of attempted contacts and interventions, KTC is excited to announce the 117 acre former Christianson/Wilson property in Swale Canyon will soon be transferred to Washington State Parks ownership! KTC worked with the Klickitat County Treasurer's Office and the new owner in the recent property sale to help facilitate this eventual outcome. Fortunately, State Parks has grant funding to remediate this former homestead. Contact KTC if you are interested in volunteering for this cleanup. The Klickitat Trail in Swale Canyon will again open for non-motorized travel on October 11.

This summer, State Parks installed bike maintenance stations at both the Lyle trailhead and in Klickitat. KTC has plans to sponsor a bike maintenance specialist and host bike maintenance clinics in the two communities, focused on local youth.



The KTC Board remedied a long-neglected “Thank you” to Goldendale Eagle Scout Josiah Murray for constructing the Wahkiacus kiosk. A plaque was mounted on the kiosk.



After years of funding rental porta-potties at both the Harms Rd and Wahkiacus trailheads, the KTC Board voted to purchase 2 units, vice continued rental. In years past, these units experienced occasional vandalism, but the Board believes this now poses a reduced concern. This will result in significant savings and allow a redirection of funding.

In early October, a Washington Dept of Transportation contractor will be paving the Klickitat Trail through a major section of the Klickitat community. The objective is to facilitate local kids safely walking and biking to/from school using the KT.

Board members Barbara Robinson, Anna Marlin and Ken Hanson represented KTC at the annual Friends of the Columbia Gorge “Summerfest” event in Cascade Locks. KTC premiered a new tri-fold display to better share the Klickitat Trail story.



KTC and State Parks will be sponsoring a fuels reduction cleanup on the Klickitat Trail on October 25. This project is in cooperation with residents of Skookum Flat Road, adjacent to the trail. On October 11, State parks will be removing blackberries along the trail in Klickitat. This is an opportunity for volunteers. Check the KTC website for details.

KTC is once again supporting the Columbia Gorge Running Club with a donation, and KTC will have a display and be providing drinks at the “Soup-er Fun Run” on October 18. They are looking for volunteers.

Recently and gratefully, KTC received several significant contributions from donors who wish to remain anonymous. The KTC Board is considering priorities and projects to honor these donors.

KTC, an all-volunteer organization, is 100% membership supported. Thoughtfully consider a new or renewal membership or a contribution. Go to www.klickitat-trail.org.