



Dear Friends of the Chinook Trail,

February 1, 1997

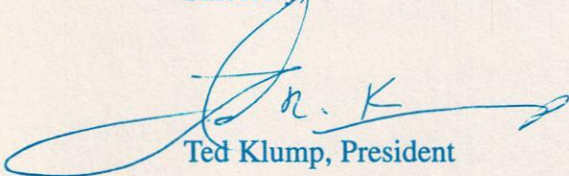
Since our incorporation eight years ago, there have been exciting and rewarding times for the Chinook Trail Association. Thanks to hundreds of hours of volunteer effort and many donated dollars from individuals, corporations and foundations. The United States Forest Service has been responsive to our needs for access. The Washington Department of Natural Resources has enabled the Chinook Trail to become a reality. Washington and Oregon State Parks have recognized the Chinook Trail Association and its contributions to the trail system in both states.

The Meyer Memorial Trust, Southwest Washington Community Foundation and SWIFT have come to our assistance to help build trails for the public and the physically challenged. Through the utilization of disadvantaged and troubled youth and grand efforts like the sixty people who showed up on National Trails Day to work on the Bells Mountain Trail, the Chinook Trail is a step closer to reality. Our Quest for a trail system encircling the Columbia River Gorge moves forward a foot and a project at a time. We remind ourselves of inch worms: working very slowly, but eventually achieving the desired goal.

In 1996 we dedicated two major links in our trail—the Cedar Creek Falls Trail and Overlook for the physically challenged; and Ed's Trail, a hiker-only 1.5-mile trail on Silver Star Mountain. Both significant achievements strengthened our partnerships with WDNR and USFS. Two partnerships greatly assisting us in these ventures were with the Educational Service District 112 Special Youth programs and the Clark Public Utilities Community Assistance Program. Both trails were built by volunteers with donated dollars. In 1995 we dedicated the Squaw Butte Trail. This 2.5-mile trail connected the 30-mile Tarbell Trail and the Trails of Silver Star Mountain.

Our aim in 1997 will be to focus upon the 13-mile Bells Mountain connector between Moulton Falls Park and Cold Creek Campground and a 7-mile connector between Hamilton Mountain and the Pacific Crest Trail. Upgrading water crossings as well as doing some significant improvements on the Tarbell and Hamilton Mountain Trails are also in our trail plans. To accomplish these goals will require the outlay of considerable capital. Though we are working on donations of materials for some bridge crossings, money is needed for foundations for these structures, as well as for the use of machinery and blasting in difficult-to-build areas. We invite you to share in our exciting Quest, the Chinook Trail, encircling the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. Your generosity of your muscle power and dollars has been appreciated in the past and we know we can count on you at this time.

Sincerely,



Ted Klump, President