

CTA in Retrospect

Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, corporations, agencies and a select few foundations, the Chinook Trail Association has been able to see completion of several significant trail projects.

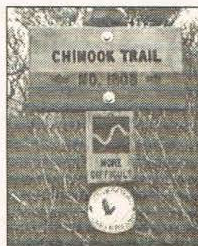
The most recent of those is the one-and-a-half-mile long Ed's Trail on the Silver Star Mountain. This trail leads the hiker into a spectacular bluff area with commanding views of the surrounding countryside including impressive glimpses of four major Cascade peaks - the mountains St. Helens, Adams, Rainier and Hood. Each of these peaks figure prominently in the lives of all who cherish living here.

The Cedar Creek Falls Trail and Overlook, another completed CTA project, was designed and constructed to provide those with mobility problems forested streamside access and viewing experiences.

The three-mile-long Squaw Butte Trail connects the thirty-mile-long Washington Department of Natural Resources Tarbell Trail with the trails of the Silver Star Special Interest Scenic Area. This segment has been named the Chinook Trail by the Forest Service. This hiker, equestrian, and mountain bike trail leads the user from low elevations to the top of 4,390-foot Silver Star Mountain. This segment also provides access to the Bluff Mountain Trail. This trail extends the Chinook Trail concept to within reach of the Pacific Crest Trail by way of Three Corner Rock Trail.

The Chinook Trail Association has worked closely with representatives of the USFS to develop a management plan for the Silver Star Special Interest Scenic Area. From this plan a trail system for the area has been developed, trails constructed or improved, and an abandoned road put to sleep and converted to a trail under the Roads to Trail Project of the USFS. CTA gave this considerable assistance. CTA volunteers contributed botanical expertise to assist in this project and constructed several miles of trail.

The Chinook Trail Association acts as a steward for the Hamilton Mountain-Hardy Creek Trail system in Beacon Rock State Park. This is an



Chinook Trail sign on Square Butte in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

ongoing project of replacing and cleaning out culverts, upgrading bridges, railings and constructing new, improved stream crossings and upgrading the trail tread.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources Tarbell Trail is over twenty years old and needs major upgrades. Over six miles of this trail is a part of the Chinook Trail vision. The Chinook Trail Association has taken a stewardship role for this portion. There are numerous small and large stream crossings which need yearly effort to maintain. In addition, erosion threatens adjacent streams and must be corrected. Time, usage and winter storms take their toll of these older trails. CTA does its part in rehabilitating this system.

The Ellen Davis Trail, a two-and-a-half-mile City of Vancouver urban trail, has received considerable attention from CTA from the handling of water run-off to serious brushing and blackberry control.

Several other trails in the Columbia River Gorge have been assisted through efforts by the Chinook Trail Association. Trails such as PCT, Dog Mountain, Augspurger, Dalles Waterfront, the 400 Trail, Lewis and Clark State Park Trail running below Broughton Bluff and Indian Creek in Hood River have been projects receiving a helping hand from the Chinook Trail Association.

Many partnerships make the trail a reality.

Most notable of these is with the Private Industry Council of Southwest Washington

through our affiliation with Educational Service District 112. CTA has participated in the job training program for disadvantaged youth of our community with these organizations. CTA also has assisted ESD 112 in the Re-entry Program for those youth attempting to get back into school after a weapons charge. The assistance of this program has benefited both the youth and the trails of our region. CTA members working with this program feel good about the results of the efforts of these young people.

Chinook Trail has profited through association with the Clark Public Utilities Community Service Program. Clark employees gave considerable time and talents to lay tread and construct a temporary bridge over Cedar Creek.

Obviously our partnerships have been essential. Our urban trail efforts with the City of Vancouver and Clark County Parks and Recreation Departments have been most successful. The Chinook Trail Association strives to maintain and develop strong relationships with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington



Teacher Mark Miller, Matt Yates, Lee Loefsen and Josh Whittaker. (Photo provided by Jerntegaard School)

State Parks, Oregon State Parks and the United States Forest Service partnerships, to mention a few. The Chinook Trail traverses land managed by these agencies. A meaningful and a mutually satisfying relationship has been essential to our success.

The Meyer Memorial Trust and the Southwest Washington Community and SWIFT Foundations have been strong supporters of our efforts to rehabilitate youth while working on trails in the region. All of our equipment, hand and power, has been acquired through the financial support of these foundations and individuals.

The Chinook Trail Association is a volunteer organization with no paid staff. Our membership dollars of the 250 members pays our membership services, promotion activities and maintains our tool inventory. Materials and some contracted services used for trail construction comes from the special contributions of individuals, foundations and corporations supporting our quest. Our trail exists at the pleasure of government agencies, through the muscle work of many individuals and through contributed dollars. The Chinook Trail Association conducts a continuing program of spring, summer and fall construction and maintenance work parties. *Quest 97* identifies our capital projects for the year 1997.

(Photos by Don Cannard)



SYEP Crew on Bell's Mountain: Nathan Gillander, Kenyon Elliot, Chilly Johnson, ESD leader Leroy Basquez.