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Trail backers hail new federal land program

The Chinook Trail Association and other advocates of recreation trails are welcoming a new federal land program intended to protect private forest lands from commercial development.

Authorized by Congress last year, the Forest Legacy Program will be tested in Washington and four North-eastern states.

If successful, the pilot program is expected to open the door for all states to become eligible for federal funding to acquire land or easements on threatened forest land.

Enthusiased over the potential for the

new program, the American Hiking Society said the plan would help keep millions of acres of undeveloped, privately owned forest land available to the public for such traditional uses as hiking, canoeing, hunting and industrial logging.

Without such protection, it is feared that these lands will eventually be developed for second homes, condominiums, and various commercial uses, the American Hiking Society pointed out in *American Hiker*, the AHS newsletter.

While the legacy program allows

the government to purchase lands outright, emphasis will be on acquiring easements restricting what current or subsequent landowners may do with their land.

Quoting from the newsletter:

"Legacy lands will be vastly different from the other federal lands in one vital way: most will remain owned by individuals or companies, and not the federal government.

"Government officials say this is the first large-scale federal program focusing on easements.

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CTA annual meeting set for Sunday, Nov. 17

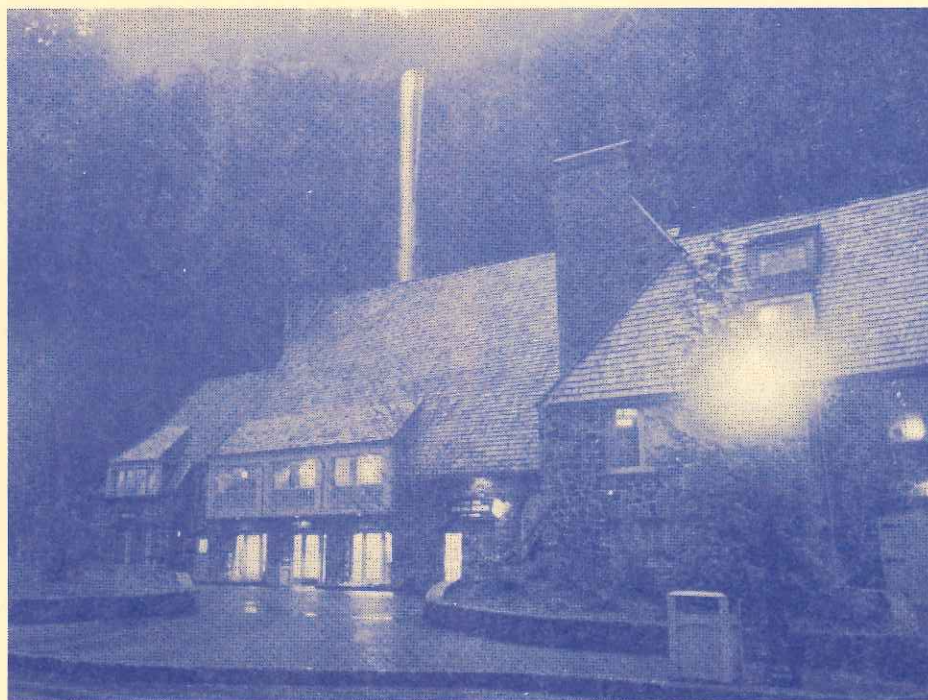
After narrowly escaping destruction by wildfire this fall, historic Multnomah Falls Lodge will again be host to the Chinook Trail Association's annual meeting.

Sunday, November 17, is the date for the CTA's brunch and meeting, scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. in the lodge.

Those who wish may also hike the recently completed Wyeth section of the Chinook Trail, not affected by October fires in the Columbia River Gorge.

Guest speaker will be Jim Fisher, Oregon chairman of the Pacific Crest Trail Conference. He will speak on the topic, "Pacific and Chinook Trails Parallels and Opportunities."

An avid trails enthusiast, Jim with his wife and their four children hiked the length of the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon during the summer of 1967. The Fishers completed their trek in 27
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Multnomah Falls Lodge—survived threat from the fires of October, and will host 1991 annual meeting of the Chinook Trail Association.

—Jim Hughes photo

1991 – another year of progress

By Karyl Ramsey
President,
Chinook Trail Association

This year we've seen continued and significant progress on the Chinook Trail. Support and recognition has grown on both local and state levels. Response from outdoor agencies and organizations on both sides of the Columbia River has been positive as we work toward the development of a trail system that promotes the preservation of wilderness areas.

The spring work parties put over 20

volunteers and agency representatives to work constructing or rehabilitating more than 10 miles of trail. The fall work parties furthered progress of trail construction, with the added treat of leaves changing color.

Keeping the big picture in mind is not always easy. It takes time, energy and money to work with all the levels of decision-making and participation, from the federal agencies, to the local agencies, to the individuals who actually join the work parties with their tools and lunches in hand. It is gratifying to know that the support is there when the task seems overwhelming. The interest in preserving the beauty and integrity of the Columbia River Gorge is strong. With the recent fire that has marred many acres of this special area, we are confronted with the realization that a treasure could be lost to future generations if we are not careful.

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to next year's goals: completion of trail segments, including those for physically challenged individuals; continued inter-agency cooperation; and growing support from our community.

Many thanks to all who helped this year, and welcome to all who will be joining us in the years to come.

Chelatchie task force due

Formation of a task force to implement a proposed Chelatchie Prairie Trail has been authorized by the Clark County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The task group will determine users, funding sources, and establish trail standard criteria for the proposed trail which has been endorsed by Clark County commissioners.

The Chelatchie Trail will parallel the existing rail line operated by the Lewis and Clark Railroad. Nineteen of the trail's approximately 30 miles will be part of the Chinook Trail system, linking Vancouver with Moulton Falls.

With the help of a consultant, Clark County is in the process of developing a comprehensive county trails plan.



Crest trail link adopted by CTA

The Chinook Trail Association has adopted a 13 mile section of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in Washington from Three Corner Rock to the Columbia River.

A pre-work party survey identified several deficiencies at the Crest Trail's Tamanous trailhead near Bonneville Dam. As a result, remnant plastic pipe from an abandoned irrigation project, and debris left from Bonneville's second power house construction has been removed or covered.

Efforts are also underway to eliminate a number of unneeded roads crossing the Crest Trail in connection with the powerhouse project.

"We applaud efforts of U.S. Forest Service and Army Corps of Engineers personnel to cut through jurisdictional territories and provide users with a more pleasing introduction to the Pacific Crest Trail," said CTA board member Don Cannard.

Dick Bartkus, Real Estate Division in the Corps of Engineers Portland office, and Jim Runkles, Bonneville Dam resource manager, worked with Steve Nelson, resource assistant and Tom Linde, trails supervisor from the Forest Service's Wind River Ranger District, to accomplish the work.

The interagency action follows another cooperative act earlier this year when CTA directors signed a trail maintenance agreement with the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The CTA agreed to maintain some eight miles of the existing Tarbell Trail west of Silver Star Mountain.

Chinook Trail Association

P.O. Box 997, Vancouver, WA 98666-0997



The Chinook Trek is the newsletter of the Chinook Trail Association, an organization dedicated to the completion of a recreational loop trail through the Columbia River Gorge.

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Karyl Ramsey, Dovie Lance, Ted Klump, Betty Rae Daugherty, Roberta Bindreiff, Donald Cannard, Paul Clare, Lawrence Devroy, Jan T. Fancher, Florence Wager, Edward Robertson, Robert Tokarczyk, Boyd Jacobsen, Paulette Rhoades

Jim Hughes, editor

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Chinook Trail Association is a not-for-profit organization under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Recreational Equipment, Inc.; James River Corporation; and Vista Type, for making publication of the Chinook Trek possible.

Work parties complete trail projects for '91

A total of more than 30 Chinook Trail volunteers and agency representatives were involved in September-October work parties.

Activities were concentrated on Pacific Crest, Tarbell, Bluff Mountain and Hamilton Mountain trail segments.

Volunteers were: Elizabeth Leland, Florence Wager, Ted Klump, Yossa Mam, Tuan Dang, Mike Brock, Jeff Slade, George Stillwell, Nathan Hornsby, Frank Mathis, Paul Beath, David Wiper, Bob Shaffer.

Patrick K. Dunagan, Matt Lee, Brit Brady, Richard Leslie, Stan Mathis, Charles Salau, Marianna Kearney, Anne Lee, Kathleen Kallock, Kenneth Oslund.

Larry Swatosh, Judy Swatosh, Paul Clare, Chuck Bender, Sam Cannard, Marianne Lovell, Marcus Robertson-Maciell, Don Cannard, and Ed Robertson.

Agency representatives were Gina Mondragon, U.S. Forest Service, Tom North, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and Steve Johnson, Washington State Parks.

The Chinook Trek Update in August listed those involved in spring and summer work projects, but the names warrant repeating:

Ted Klump, Paul Clare, Grant Geisler, Don Cannard, Don Burnet, Brian Klump, Louis Kamper, Nancy Ellifrit, Joan Robertson-Geisler, Marcus Robertson-Maciell, Vern Swaim, Larry Devroy, Ed Robertson, Lois Bruhn, Pat Burnet, Verna Swaim, Aaron Klump and Kenneth Oslund.

Annual meeting

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days, just before Oregon forests were closed due to one of the worst fire seasons in state history.

Jim has retired as Oregon Forestry Department public affairs officer, and now serves as Sisters, Oregon, Chamber of Commerce manager. A freelance writer, he also teaches journalism at Central Oregon Community College in Bend.

Fisher will assist CTA President Karyl Ramsey in presenting awards to individuals in recognition of time and



Boy Scouts from Southeast Portland work on a section of the Chinook Trail's Tarbell Trail segment.

—Ed Robertson photo

Trails may benefit from 'Legacy Lands'

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"The pilot program regulations must still be finalized by the U.S. Forest Service—and the funds appropriated by Congress—before protection efforts begin.... Estimates for each of the five pilot states range between \$3 and \$7 million.

"For their part, the timber companies view the program as a means to keep the working forest working. The program is seen to move the debate away from whether or not these lands should be acquired. 'It's a nice change of pace between the false choice of exploitation and preservation,' said Ted Johnson of the Maine Forest Products Council.

"Key provisions in the program help make it palatable to both timber

companies and legislators concerned about government meddlesomeness. Most importantly, only willing sellers will participate in the program."

The American Hiking Society also pointed out that participating states—not the federal government—will set guidelines for lands to be included in the legacy program.

"We want this to be home rule and voluntary," said John Currier of the U. S. Forest Service's Northeast Regional Office. "We don't want it to be perceived as Big Brother, with the federal government telling landowners what to do."

Volunteer builds display

Another individual with special professional skills has stepped forward to help promote the Chinook Trail.

Susan Cole, owner and founder of Dancing Letters, a note card and lettering firm, assembled a display for the Chinook Trail Association booth at the Northwest Trails '91 Hiking Fair, sponsored by the World Forestry Center and Recreation Equipment, Inc.

Susan's display encourages people to sign-up and help build the Chinook Trail. It will be used at other functions.

effort contributed to the Association over the past year.

Cost for attending the brunch/annual meeting will be \$12 each for adults (\$10 for seniors), and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Reservations should be made by calling Elizabeth Leland (206) 576-1501, or Larry Devroy (503) 652-2241.



Come join us

The Chinook Trail Association welcomes new members. Annual dues are: individual, \$20; family, \$30; student/senior, \$10; institutional, \$60; sustaining, \$100; corporate, \$1,000; and life membership, \$500. For further information, call Ed Robertson, (206) 694-1648.

Hiking, food and music in CTA benefit

A balmy autumn Sunday afternoon blend of hiking, music and food combined to make the Chinook Trail Association's second annual fundraiser a success.

Held September 29, the event featured a hike along Vancouver's historic Officer's Row followed by a concert and picnic box lunch in the Columbia Arts Center.

Music was by the Vancouver Brass Quintet—Nancy Jeffrey, French horn; Kevin Fitzgearld, tuba; Chris Cannard, trombone, and Bob Thomsen and Rob Murry, trumpets.

The event raised more than \$1,000 to help further Chinook Trail objectives.

"We also got a lot of favorable exposure. The Chinook Trail is gaining more and more name recognition in the



The Vancouver Brass Quintet, clockwise from top left: Bob Thomsen, Rob Murry, Nancy Jeffrey, Kevin Fitzgearld, Chris Cannard—benefit concert for the Chinook Trail on an autumn Sunday afternoon.

—Don Cannard photo

community," pointed out Evan Hull, Vancouver attorney and CTA member who chaired the event.

Serving on Hull's committee were Bobbie Bindreiff, Jan Fancher, Liz Perry, Karyl Ramsey, Wendy Schwartz Hosman and Florence Wager.

Chinook listed in state plan

The Chinook Trail is included in a proposed statewide trails plan developed by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.

Jim Eychaner, interagency recreation resource planner, has worked on the project for more than two years.

New Chinook Trail segment opened

A new section of trail near Wyeth on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge was recently completed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The segment, which will be part of the Chinook Trail System, is approximately four miles long and cost about \$55,000, according to Stan Hinatsu, Forest Service recreation manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Assisting in the construction was a

30-member volunteer work party sponsored by Recreation Equipment, Inc. CTA board member Ed Robertson participated with the REI group.

Multnomah County alternative service people and a Forest Service work crew also assisted in the construction.

The new trail can be reached by taking the Wyeth exit from Interstate Highway 84.



Chinook Trail Association

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