



CHINOOK TREK UPDATE #1

March, 1991

The Chinook Trek Update is an occasional paper published on an unscheduled basis by the Chinook Trail Association, P. O. Box 997, Vancouver, Washington, 98668-997.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNED

A significant first has been culminated this past week. The Chinook Trail Association Board of directors formally accepted and signed a cooperative trail maintenance agreement with the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Battle Ground Unit in assuming responsibility to maintain approximately eight (8) miles of the Tarbell Trail. This is the first official agency recognition of the Chinook Trail Association in an on the ground role.

Bobbi Bindrief, first President of the Chinook Trail Association says, "this is the first step in a very long trail. It is what we have been working toward since our founding in 1988."

Karyl Ramsey, current President, calls the agreement "an important signpost and reassurance marker in the history of the Chinook Trail and a tribute to the steadfastness of our members, Bob Tokarczyk, Steve Tubbs, Ted Klump, Don Cannard and Ed Robertson as well as the willingness to assist on the part of DNR officials.

MOULTON FALLS TO COLD CREEK CAMPGROUND TRAIL

A seven to eight mile trail route is currently being surveyed. This segment will connect Clark County Moulton Falls Park and DNR Cold Creek Campground, located on Cedar Creek. retired DNR Assistant Area Manager, Ken Heiman, is offering his professional skills and knowledge of mapping in this endeavor. A mile of trail has been located on the ground or flagged. This process is slow and strenuous as the country is brushy and in some cases, steep and rocky. Upon completion of the location work, DNR officials will double check the route to be sure it meets DNR standards. An access permit will be issued provided it fits in with DNR overall planning.

Assisting Ken are Ted Klump, Don Cannard and Ed Robertson. Those interested in assisting in this process may call (206) 694-4033 or (206) 694-1648 for details.

CEDAR CREEK FALLS PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED TRAIL SEGMENT

There exists a delightful falls on Cedar Creek near the DNR Tarbell Trail. This is a scenic reference point along the proposed Chinook Trail leading to Moulton Falls. A 1991 SWIFT Grant will assist CTA in constructing a physically challenged trail to a viewing area near the falls. "We are pleased to be able to accommodate this segment of our population on the Chinook Trail" Clark County Coordinator and Vancouver Attorney Steve Tubbs remarked recently.

Again, final planning and permitting processes are yet to be completed.

If you are interested in working on this short trail segment, call Steve at (206) 6949-7551.

THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The what of any agency can best be determined by examining its legislated purposes. The people implementing its legislated purposes is the who of that agency. The Washington Department of

Natural Resources not only manages such diverse resources like Geoduck beds, in Puget Sound and Surface mining applications in Clark County to operating the State Natural Heritage Program which keeps track of rare and endangered plants and wildlife in cooperation with other state and national agencies. DNR also manages in trust for other agencies and institutions lands so designated. Timberland management is just one aspect of DNR responsibility. Each trust and legislated mandate carries a varied and sometimes complicated array of guidelines. The Chinook Trail will exist, in part, on such state managed public lands. Developing appropriate agreements and permits takes a staff knowledgeable and willing to put forth the effort to make it happen.

We are fortunate to have the following agency representatives as the who of DNR:

Tom North, newly appointed recreation forester is charged with the responsibility of supervising the trails program in the Battle Ground Unit. He is making the Chinook Trail one of his prime responsibilities. Tom has made the DNR his chosen profession. He has worked in the Clark County area for 17 years.

Marc Engle, current unit forester comes to this unit from the South Puget Regions. While there for five years, he successfully completed the Michalson horse trail system which included applying for state Interagency Committee funds to assist with that trail's construction. Mark brings a firm grasp of DNR policies and a practical on-the-ground knowledge of what makes a good trail.

Overseeing several southwest Washington units is Seth Mackie. Seth has been in the area for 22 years. Seth is currently completing the development of the Yacolt Burn forest management plan. The Chinook Trail has been recommended for inclusion in this plan. He has seen the development of the present DNR trail system and embraces the concept of partnerships to assist and maintain and construct these facilities.

Jan Gano is Area Manager. Jan oversees the region known as the Southwest Washington Unit serving Wakiakum, Clark, Skamania and Cowlitz Counties.

Brian Boyle is the elected Washington State Commissioner of public lands. Commissioner Boyle has stated, "The Chinook Trail will receive due consideration in our planning for the management in the Yacolt Burn State Forest." John Edwards, Manager of Land and Water conservation in the Olympia office has indicated planners will be assigned to site planning assistance. He has communicated with CTA stating, "Upon completion of the Yacolt Burn Plan, the Chinook Trail will potentially surface as a viable recreation project."

"The Chinook Trail Association stands ready to press forward in this planning and implementation phase", states Karyl Ramsey, CTA President.

TRAIL WORK PARTIES

CTA is scheduling a number of May, June and possibly July trail work parties. Our experience of managing over 50 volunteers will be put to good use as we anticipate an expanded number of days with a larger number of volunteers. It is planned that these will occur on DNR, USFS and Washington State Parks lands. A number of folks have offered to be crew chiefs. If you would like to assist as a crew chief, please call (206) 694-4033 or (206) 694-1648.

LLAMA OUTFITTERS TO ASSIST CHINOOK TRAIL

Llama Outfitter, Don Johnson, has offered his skills and pack animals to haul in equipment and supplies for trail building and camping on the Chinook Trail. Chinook Trail Association representatives will be working out the details and hope to make this longer than a one day event in a really scenic setting a possibility. We know summer vacation plans are firming up and we will rush our planning for this activity. There will be a modest fee associated with this to cover costs. This will occur June 25, 26, 27 and 28. See enclosed information.