



WASHOUGAL TO STEVENSON TRAIL SYSTEM

An outstanding opportunity is upon us to open up public lands in the National Scenic Area, resulting in new outstanding recreational opportunities. We urge your participation by asking you to read the enclosed information, then write to each person or commission urging their passionate help in acquiring these properties. If it is not possible for you to write an individual letter, would you write a generic letter and then send a copy of it to each individual.

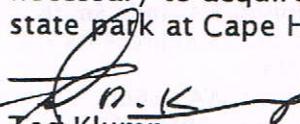
There are three basic components of this proposal:

1. Cape Horn State Park - A new destination-quality State Park on top of Cape Horn, with a 2.1 mile ridge top trail, parking, comfort and picnic facilities, and possibly a ridge-top visitor's center.
2. Parking Areas for Trail Access - At mileposts 21.4, 24.8, 26.4, 30, 34.2, and 37 will be trail heads leading to such destinations as Archer Mountain, Aldrich Butte, Greenleaf Falls, Woodard Creek Canyon and Pt. Bob.
3. Washougal to Stevenson Trail - This trail will follow the Columbia River for several miles in Clark county, then connect with Cape Horn State Park and each of the new trail heads, leading to Skamania Lodge and on to downtown Stevenson and the river front.

The most remarkable thing about this proposal is how close to being a reality it already is. The entire system of new trails requires the purchase of only one parcel of land and two easements in all Skamania County outside Cape Horn.

On Cape Horn nearly 80 acres of the most spectacular and critical land have been purchased privately with the intent of making the land available for public access. If the Forest Service and State Parks will buy this land, the present owner will make **25% of the purchase price available as matching funds** to pay for trail construction. Thus, the purchase of critical land for a new State Park on Cape Horn will fund trail construction for most, if not all, of this proposed trail system.

A private donation of this magnitude should not be passed up. Even more significant is Pioneer Point itself. Please encourage our elected officials to do whatever is necessary to acquire this treasure before it is sold off for home sites. We need a new state park at Cape Horn.


Ted Klump
President, Chinook Trail Association

CAPE HORN SCENIC OVERLOOK PARK & TRAIL SYSTEM

SALIENT POINTS TO MAKE TO OUR LEADERS

- State recreational opportunities are lacking on the Washington side of the Gorge.
- This benefits Washington as well as Vancouver and Clark County residents.
- This is a quality of life issue. It is an economic development issue
- Cape Horn is the most spectacular and accessible location in the Gorge.
- If we miss this opportunity it will never be able to be duplicated, ever.
- A significant private challenge grant will be available if Cape Horn is purchased publicly.
- Please figure out a way to purchase these properties at once.
- If the State of Washington can spend \$45 million on a stadium in Seattle, they can spend \$1 million for the residents of S.W. Washington

WHOM TO WRITE:

Art Carroll, Manager
U.S.F.S. Col. Riv. Gorge Nat'l. Scenic Area
902 Wasco Ave., Suite 200
Hood River, OR 97031
(541)386-2333 FAX (541)386-1916
Robert Williams, Regional Forester
333 S.W. First
Portland, OR 97024

The Honorable Joseph Zarelli
Washington State Senator
2809 N.W. 100th Street
Vancouver, WA 98685
Work: 576-5194
Home: 576-1444

The Honorable Don Benton
Washington State Senator
P.O. Box 5076
Vancouver, WA 98668
Work (Local): 574-7369

WA. State Parks & Recreation Comm.
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
(360)902-8500 FAX (360)753-1594
cc: Cleve Pinnix, Director
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

The Honorable Don Carlson
Washington State Representative
507 N.E. 99th Street, #71
Vancouver, WA 98665
Work/Home (Local): 573-8898
Olympia: (360)786-7924
FAX: (360)786-1066

The Honorable Val Ogden
Washington State Representative
3118 N.E. Royal Oaks Drive
Vancouver, WA 98662
Work (Local): 254-3007
Home: 254-8886
Olympia: (360)786-7872
FAX: (360)786-7317

Bob Thompson, Chairman
Jonathan Doherty, Executive Director
Columbia River Gorge Commission
P.O. Box 730
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509)493-3323 FAX (509)493-2229

The Honorable Tom Mielke
Washington State Representative
P.O. Box 2503
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Work (Local): 687-1113
FAX: 687-0271

The Honorable Jim Dunn
Washington State Representative
13215-C Mill Plain Blvd #362
Vancouver, WA 98684
Work (Local): 256-1405

The Honorable Al Bauer
Washington State Senator
13611 N.E. 20th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98686
Work (Local): 696-6434 or (360)786-7696
FAX: (360)786-7520 - Home: 573-1852

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senator
500 W. 12th
Vancouver, WA 98660
Work (Local): 696-7797

The Honorable John Pennington
Washington State Representative
P.O. Box 69
Carrolls, WA 98609
Work: (360)687-9044

The Honorable Marc Boldt
Washington State Representative
P.O. Box 1887
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Work/Home (Local): 256-9025

The Honorable Slade Gorton
United States Senator
500 W. 12th
Vancouver, WA 98660
Work (Local): 696-7838

The Honorable Linda Smith
United States Representative
1220 Main
Vancouver, WA 98660
Work (Local): 695-6292

Phoning

If writing is not possible then phone. Call 1-800-562-6000 for all WA. State Senators & Representatives. The message:
DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO FUND THE PROPOSED CAPE HORN SCENIC OVERLOOK STATE PARK AND TRAIL.

WASHOUGAL TO STEVENSON TRAIL

Federal acquisitions of property in the west end of the Washington side of the Gorge have resulted in an almost continuous belt of public land. Along a spectacular potential trail alignment between Steamboat Landing park in downtown Washougal and the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, half a dozen private parcels remain. Only two homes and a burned-out trailer are in locations directly at odds with the development of a public trail some 42 miles long. Below is a brief description of the route the trail follows.

From the Steamboat Landing parking lot the trail follows a dike for about six miles. This level stretch already public for the first 4.5 miles, provides access to Columbia River beaches and views of Mt. Hood, Crown Point and Reed Island. At the end of the dike, the trail crosses Lawton Creek and parallels the railroad for 3/4 mile on Forest Service land. The first 1/4 miles of this stretch is inland from a small farm where the absence of a river front dike means that one looks over green pastures directly at the Columbia River with Crown Point looming in the distance. East of the farm is another public beach area.

Roughly seven miles from Steamboat Landing the trail crosses the tracks at Jody Road, where there is an existing grade crossing for the burned-out trailer house that sits on the riverbank. Inland from the tracks the trail goes east on an old roadbed and enters Skamania County. The trail climbs 700 feet in the next three miles, always below SR14 and above the tracks. This wild section is filled with ever more awesome views of the river, Rooster Rock, Latourell Falls and Sand Island with its massive dunes.

Cape Horn Segment

At about MP 24.8 on SR14 will be another trail head. A new 600 acres park has been proposed for this area. Here the trail crosses SR14 using a dry stream bed for an underpass. The next 2.1 miles of trail provide a winning combination of gentle grades, proximity to the metropolitan area and some of the most superlative scenery anywhere in the Gorge, culminating at Pioneer Point. After having taken you past a score of dramatic viewpoints the trail descends out of the woods and into a pastoral setting with a wide open view of the silver Star Mountains. Just before leaving the woods the trail branches, with a spur that invites the adventurous hiker down to the Columbia at Pt. Bob.

Twelve miles from Steamboat Landing, at the north end of the Cape Horn segment, the trail follows a county road for 700 feet and turns into the woods again. The next mile or so winds along toward Pringle Peak, providing occasional glimpses of the escarpment you're approaching. At the base of an 800 foot cliff the trail leaves the woods again. Here is the most difficult section of the entire trail, climbing as rapidly as does the trail above Wahkeena Falls on the Oregon side. At the top of Prindle Peak you are rewarded with a direct head-on view of Multnomah Falls. East of Prindle Peak the trail descends through the woods to the existing park at St. Cloud on the Columbia River.

From St. Cloud the trail will lead up Archer Mountain, where at the 800 foot level hikers can stop to enjoy a 200° view of the Columbia River and Franz Lake. North of Archer Mountain the trail will continue through the woods crossing the occasional old logging road. The trail winds through a few miles of back country before coming to Woodard Creek.

The entire length of Woodard Creek flows through public property from the scenic area boundary to its mouth at the Columbia River. Where the trail crosses Woodard Creek, a spur trail can lead through five miles of wild canyon stream-side down to Beacon Rock and Doetsch Ranch. After crossing Woodard Creek the trail enters Beacon Rock State Park, passing Hamilton, Table and Greenleaf Mountains before linking up with the new Stevenson waterfront trail system at Skamania Lodge.

For further information, please contact Dan Huntington, Trustee, Cape Horn Land & Timber Trust, (360)253-1120, at 772 Riverside Drive, Washougal, WA 98671.

Proposed trail would be a fine sight

STEVENSON, Wash. — Dan Huntington talked excitedly as he steered his Jeep along a rutted, alder-choked road to the rim of the Columbia River Gorge.

"This is the old Washougal to Stevenson stage coach road," said Huntington, a 38-year-old real estate agent from Prindle, a community midway between Vancouver and Stevenson. "We're in for some incredibly beautiful scenery."

Huntington parked his four-wheel drive and pointed the way up a path that skirted the edge of a 500-foot-high promontory above Washington's Cape Horn, 25 miles east of Vancouver.

"This two-mile section has 14 viewpoints that look out over the gorge," Huntington said. He thinks the site might be the most beautiful location in the Columbia River Gorge that most people have never seen.

"The viewpoints are in public ownership, but there is no way to reach them without crossing private property," Huntington said.

Huntington first saw what is known as Pioneer Point earlier this year while working as a real estate agent for undeveloped land. When he realized that two lots held the key to a 45-mile Washougal-to-Stevenson trail along the rim of the gorge, he created the Cape Horn Land Timber Trust.

Investors in the trust have purchased the lots, but have agreed to make them available for sale at fair market value (\$1.5 million) until May 1, 1998, to the government — perhaps the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area or Washington State Parks, according to Huntington.

If the is sold to the govern-



The Oregon trails are beautiful, but this one is so much more spectacular.

Tom Linde,
Forest Service recreation ranger



ment, the investors will donate 25 percent of the purchase price to build the trail. The donation would require matching funds from the government or a charitable grant, thus providing \$750,000 to begin the work of building the trail.

The choice is clear, Huntington said. Either the government purchases the lots and develops the most beautiful trail in the Columbia River Gorge, or the lots are subdivided and a dozen new houses enjoy some of the best views in Washington.

Tom Linde, a Forest Service recreation ranger and lifelong resident of southern Washington, said the trail as proposed would "put the trails on the Oregon side to shame."

"The Oregon trails are beautiful," he said, "but this one is so much more spectacular — if it ever gets built."

Since Huntington began work on the project in March, he has given

tours to representatives from the Forest Service, state parks, legislative delegations, county commissions, chambers of commerce and the media.

He will join Arlene Johnson, executive director of the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce, in making a presentation Oct. 22 to the scenic area's commission in Hood River.

"We want to get the project on the commission's list of projects that need funding," Johnson said. "We've found widespread support for the concept, now we need to get on the list for funding."

Adequate funds should be available, Huntington said. The recent federal appropriations bill allocated \$6 million for land acquisition in the national scenic area.

"The federal government has bought 15,000 acres since the scenic area was created a decade ago," Huntington said. "But very little has been done to open it to public use."

With his experience in real estate, Huntington researched land ownership of a route that could hold the 45-mile trail from Washougal to Stevenson. Nearly the entire corridor is in public ownership. Except for the two parcels atop Cape Horn, only four other private land sections would need to be purchased or crossed by negotiating easement rights.

"I'm a hiker," Huntington said. "This may be the last chance to build the trail the Washington side of the gorge needs."

Terry Richard's column appears Thursday. It can be reached at 221-8222, by FAX at 221-8168, or by mail at 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland, 97201.

TRAIL PROPOSAL

The Washougal to Stevenson trail proposed by Columbia River Gorge resident Dan Huntington has two components — a continuous 45-mile route and five spurs.

■ **MAIN TRAIL:** The route would begin at Steamboat Landing on the Columbia River in Washougal and end at the Stevenson waterfront. In between it would wander atop the rim of the gorge, climbing over Cape Horn to as high as 2,400 feet near Beacon Rock State Park.

■ **MOUNT PLEASANT LANDING:** A one-mile trail from Washington 14 in eastern Clark County would reach the shore of the Columbia River across from Oregon's Crown Point.

■ **POINT BOB:** A 2.2-mile loop from Washington 14 would drop to a 140-foot-high promontory above the Columbia River with views from Crown Point to Dog Mountain.

■ **ARCHER MOUNTAIN:** A 6.5-mile loop that would start at St. Cloud on the Columbia and climb to meet the main trail north of 2,011-foot Archer Mountain.

■ **WOODARD CREEK:** A five-mile trail would climb from the Columbia at Beacon Rock State Park along Woodard Creek to join the main trail at 2,400 feet in elevation.

■ **EXISTING TRAILS:** The only segments of the proposed trail system currently in use are 4.5 miles along a river dike east of Steamboat Landing; small sections that would overlap the Pacific Crest Trail and trails on Hamilton Mountain in Beacon Rock State Park; and a two-mile interpretive trail that begins at Skamania Lodge.