

Join CTA on the Trails

Public Lands Day September 24 & 25, 2016

Text and Photos by Ted Klump



National Public Lands Day (NLPD) is the largest volunteer event for America's outdoor playground when thousands of Americans volunteer to improve and enhance our nation's public lands. Come September you're invited to join the Washington Trails Association and Mt. St. Helens Institute at June Lake on the southeast flank of Mt. St. Helens. This will be a weekend event, so you can sign up for Saturday or Sunday or both.

Interested? Go to www.wta.org and click on the volunteer link.

Calendar of Coming Events

September 13	7:00 p.m.	CTA Board Meeting at Columbia Springs office
September 24-25	All day	Public Lands Day (see article above)
October 11	7:00 p.m.	CTA Board Meeting at Swatosh residence
October 13-15	All day	Washington Trails Conference in Richland
November 8	7:00 p.m.	CTA Board Meeting at Swatosh residence
Mid Winter 2017		Make plans to attend the CTA annual meeting. Stay tuned for details.

The Chinook Trail was founded in 1986 as a non-profit 501 c 3 organization. The vision of the Chinook Trail Association (CTA) is to assist in the planning and construction of a 300 mile loop trail, encircling the Columbia River Gorge, from Vancouver Lake to Maryhill, Washington and Biggs, Oregon to Portland and then back to Vancouver. The Chinook Trail is in the Washington State Trails Plan, the Oregon State Trails Plan, The Columbia Trails Plan, the Greater Metro Trails Plan utilizing the 40 Mile Loop Trail. Where and when appropriate, the CTA will participate in the maintenance of the trail system.

Chinook Trail #180B

Text and Photos by Steve Jones



About 20 miles northeast of Vancouver in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest is Chinook Trail #180B. One option to hike this trail is to park at the Tarbell Trailhead which requires a Discover Pass. The trailhead is about 2.2 miles from the intersection of Dole Valley Road and the L1100 road. A picnic area with a pit toilet but no water is about 150 feet up the trail.

The trail starts out going through an old clear cut with nice views through the second growth trees. Far in the distance is the summit of Silver Star Mountain and Sturgeon Rock. The first few

miles pass through an active clear cut area. What is forest one year may be open clear cut the next. This diversity allows hundreds of different plants and wildlife in the forest and meadows. The junction of the trail is at 3.75 miles, about half way up to the summit of Silver Star. This is part of the old Yacolt Burn and the mountain meadows provide habitat for myriads of summer butterflies. As the path steepens, the volcanoes come into view as Mt. Rainier, Adams and St. Helens grace the horizon. At 6.1 miles, turn right at an unsigned junction onto the Silver Star Trail. After a mile, the left hand trail of a 3-way junction goes up to the 4,390-foot summit of Silver Star Mountain. On a clear day you can see all the main volcanoes in the area. The columnar basalt of nearby Sturgeon Rock is another eye-catching sight. From the 1930's to the 1950's the Forest Service maintained a fire lookout on Silver Star, but little remains today.



The spectacular views all along the trail make this one of the most scenic hikes in the area. At 15.5 miles with almost 3,100 feet of elevation gain, you'll feel a real accomplishment at completing the trip.

National Trails Day

June 4, 2016

Text and Photo by Ted Klump



National Trails Day is an annual event put on by the American Hiking Society to celebrate trails across America. It is held on the first Saturday in June. This year, the Chinook Trail Association hosted an event at the Cold Creek Day Use Area in the Yaocolt Burn State Forest. It was one of the warmest days of the year, but we stayed comfortable under the canopy of trees.

The morning was spent brushing parts of the Bells Mountain Trail and cleaning bridges on the Cedar Creek Falls Overlook Trail. Also, some Chinook Trail assurance markers were placed on some of the Bells Mountain Trail signs as the first step in marking the trail. (See photo.)

The event was attended by 14 people. In the afternoon we enjoyed a great BBQ put on by Bob Scullin and Larry and Judy Swatosh. It was a successful day and everyone had a good time.

Cape Horn Trail

Oak View Overlook Dedication, July 16, 2016

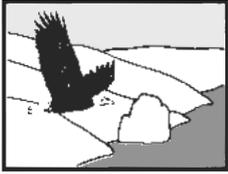
Text and Photos by Ted Klump

On Saturday, July 16, the Oak View Overlook on the Cape Horn Trail was dedicated at an 11:00 a.m. ceremony on site. Speakers at the ceremony included Lynn Burditt, USFS National Scenic Area Manager; Ryan Ojerio, Washington Trails Association; Owen Wozniak, Trust for Public Lands; Dan Huntington, Trail Visionary; Renee Tkach, Friends of the Columbia Gorge; and Teresa Robbins, Cape Horn Conservancy.



The ceremony was the culmination of six years of safety and sustainability improvements on the Cape Horn Trail. The Chinook Trail Association has had an integral part in not only this project, but many projects at Cape Horn, by lending totes to transport materials and tools to the job sites.

The Cape Horn Trail is part of the proposed Washougal to Stevenson Trail and will be an alternate route for the Chinook Trail.



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Mark your calendars

Sept. 24 & 25, 2016

**PUBLIC
LANDS
DAY**

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Oregon Trail(s)

Text by Steve Klump

While much of the focus of the CTA has been on the trails of SW Washington, approximately half of the 300-mile loop is in Oregon. And a good portion of that follows the original pioneer Oregon Trail. Much of US Highway 30 follows the pioneer route and that holds true for Oregon. In 1922, Oregon completed construction on the Columbia River Highway (US 30). Today, some of that old roadbed is being reclaimed for public trails.



One stretch open to the public is known as the Mosier Twin Tunnels Trail. The east trailhead is near Mosier, Oregon and the west trailhead is just east of Hood River. The trail is paved and is available for hikers and cyclists.

The trail gets its name from the twin tunnels that were carved into the rock cliff in 1921. Original graffiti can still be seen and the tunnels provide a welcome rest from the heat of a summer hike. This trail is moderate, family friendly, and open all year. Harsh local weather can be a challenge in summer and winter, but the trail is worth the 4.5-mile hike (if you shuttle). An out-and-back hike is the other option, with the tunnels coming about 1.5 miles from the east trailhead. Restrooms are available at the trailheads and an Oregon State Park Permit is required for parking.

For those who like to mix culinary delights with hiking, Hood River has an embarrassment of riches. Mosier, though smaller, has its own businesses to meet your adventuring needs.

Want a longer hike? Go east from Mosier on US 30 through the Roweena loops and connect to The Dalles Waterfront Trail. Or go west into Hood River and follow the Indian Creek Trail which heads out of southeast Hood River and goes southwest along the Hood River and Indian Creek.

Did You Know?

Most Thursdays, the Washington Trail Association provides trail work opportunities in southwest Washington for eager volunteers. Work sites vary from week to week and more information is available at www.wta.org.