

The Chinook Trail Association is Still on the Job

Commentary by Steve Klump

Photos by Steve Jones

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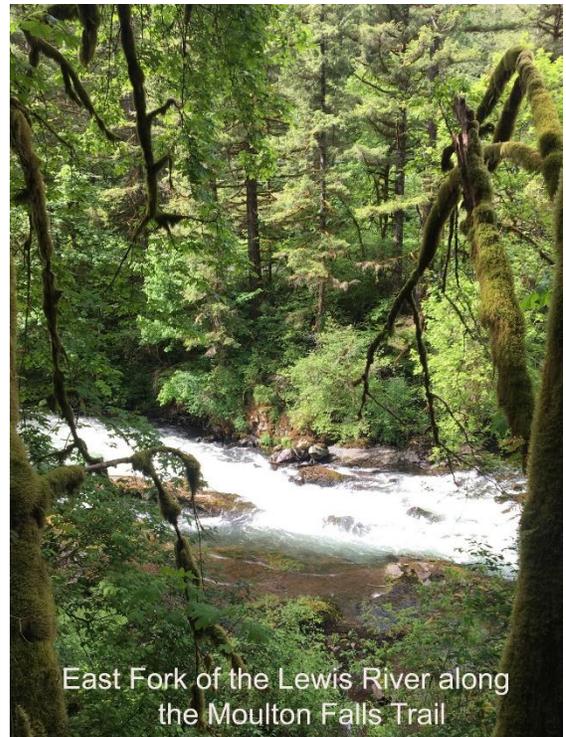
Great news! You can shop at the Columbia Sportswear store in Beaverton from now until

With summer in full swing you can go hiking on the Chinook Trail. Take a pair of hand clippers along and help keep blackberries and other brush out of the trail.

With the current pandemic and its social requirements, the Chinook Trail Association is unable to work on maintaining trails the way we would like to. And we did postpone our Annual Gathering and Meeting which was scheduled for March 15.

Still, it's worth remembering that the Chinook Trail System hasn't gone anywhere. Much is still accessible. That includes the urban trails of Clark County and the Tri-Met region in Oregon.

It includes backcountry trails that run 100 miles to the east end of the Gorge National Scenic Area. It includes trails near the Columbia River and trails in the hills which look down on our "Gorge-ous River".



East Fork of the Lewis River along
the Moulton Falls Trail



Cedar Creek Falls at
Cold Creek dayuse area

The twin episodes of the pandemic and the Eagle Creek Fire has some of our trails shut down, so check local conditions if you get the urge to explore. Recently our CTA President Steve Jones has been out doing just that; exploring portions of the Chinook Trail System in the vicinity of the Yacolt Burn. He has been posting pictures on our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts.

Last year Steve Jones joined Pacific Crest Trail Association crews working on the Eagle Creek Trail. Because of the fire, many backcountry trails and trailheads will remain closed for the next few years, which means that hiking southern (i.e. Oregon) sections of the Chinook Trail will not be possible. (The Chinook Trail uses portions of the Eagle Creek Trail as it passes through the Oregon backcountry).

The Chinook Trail Association is looking forward to the time when we can safely resume group meetings and work parties. Be safe, have fun, and get some trail work done.



Trail workers on the
closed Eagle Creek Trail