

PTC Fall 2002 Newsletter

Rayonier Opens.

The trail through the former Rayonier Mill site officially opened October 6. Part of the trail is convoluted because they are still removing contaminated soil from the area and did not want the trail to cross the roads being used by the trucks transporting the soil off site. The convoluted part is temporary until the site is completely cleaned and a plan for future use of the area is developed. In the meantime the trail is safe to use.

The gates are currently being locked at sunset and opened at sunrise. The gatekeepers go by the times for sunset and sunrise found in the paper.

This is going to be a difficult section of trail to maintain in the winter. Storms and rain will occasionally cause washouts and leave the surface of the trail in less than ideal condition. Part of the trail along the shore near the mouth of Morse Creek regularly gets hammered by winter storms that send waves over the top of the rip-rap. A lowland alternative trail away from the shore was built this summer to make this stretch of trail useable during the winter months.

Jefferson County-Larry Scott Memorial Trail

Jefferson County held a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the addition of another mile of trail. The trail now stretches from the waterfront out to SR 20. There were about 50 people in attendance-including a half dozen who rode their horses there. A horse path parallels the trail and if you are heading into town there is a corral just as you reach the waterfront.

Adopt-a-Trail

We are in the process of developing an Adopt-a-Trail program for the ODT. If you have any experience with similar programs and would like to help us get this off the ground please contact us.

Sequim Community Foundation

The PTC received a \$3400 from the Sequim Community Foundation to put artwork and signs at the Johnson Creek Trestle. The Trestle is one of this area's primer attractions and, by virtue of its location, will be the portal of entry to Sequim and the Dungeness Valley for many people. The foundation was convinced, as we were, that such an attraction should be appropriately fitted with classy artwork and signs.

Dana Hyde, a metal artist, is making metal salmon cutouts five feet long. These will be suspended under the trestle over (of course) Johnson Creek. Dana has a company called Metal and Mud and has her artwork in homes along the west coast. We have also commissioned Tim Quinn to draw an interpretative mural that will be placed at the East end of the trestle. A smaller sign with photos and a brief historical sketch will welcome visitors to the Dungeness Valley on the west end of the trestle.

Official Opening

There will be an official opening of the ODT through Sequim on Thursday, October 31st at 1:00PM.at the Johnson Creek Trestle. Come out and help us celebrate the event.

Clallam County

By the time you read the county will have chip-sealed about two more miles of the ODT. The newest stretch of trail (1300' east of Siebert Creek) and the stretch from Kitchen-Dick road to Heath will now be suitable pedestrians, horses, fat tire bikes as well as skinny tire bicycles!

NOVCB

The North Olympic Visitors and Convention Bureau just awarded the PTC \$5000 to upgrade our website. We are will be turning it into something like the website of our cousin on Vancouver Island, the Galloping Goose. Most of the requests we get from our current website are for maps. We are going to develop a map that can be easily downloaded for visiting cyclists and can be easily changed as the trail develops. Since the grant is from the Visitors Bureau a key feature of the website will be links to accommodations on the peninsula.

Selinda Barkhuis will be in charge of developing the website. She developed our current website and has been maintaining it as a volunteer. She is now developing websites professionally in conjunction with her business as a realtor promoting real estate along the trail. We feel this is a good public/private partnership with someone who sees the trail as a financial asset to its neighbors.

Thanksgiving Work Party

Well actually the day after Thanksgiving-the 29th. We are going to put the finishing touches on the Johnson Creek trestle-11,000 finishing touches to be exact. We are going put the last of the screws in the deck and handrails. We will also be putting up some fence, planting a few trees and pulling a few weeds. We will need people with drills. If you feel guilty about not working on the trestle this summer this is your chance to assuage that guilt.

The Candidates Respond

We sent the following questions to the commissioner candidates for both Clallam and Jefferson Counties. And, we sent along stamped self-addressed envelopes.
Pat Rodgers, Republican Jefferson County

On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest) how important is completing the Olympic Discovery Trail to you and your constituents? Please explain briefly.
While I would like to see the trail finished and would work towards its completion I am not prepared to prioritize its importance on a scale.

Will you work to see the Olympic Discovery Trail extended west to the Clallam County border in the next four years? If so, what specific actions do you intend to take in order to accomplish this?
I don't know if this is a realistic time line so I can not honestly answer this question.

Wendi Wrinkle, Democrat Jefferson County

On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how important is completing the Olympic Discovery Trail to you and your constituents? Please explain briefly.
I am going to have to say a 5, because the constituents I've met who spoke about the trail were equally divided between those who were in

full support of the trail and those who are property owners directly impacted by the need to complete the un-built areas of the trail.

Will you work to see the Olympic Discovery Trail extended west to the Clallam County border in the next four years? If so, what specific actions do you intend to take in order to accomplish this?

In keeping with my first answer, I will work to identify the variety of options we have to bring people together to find common ground and community-based solutions that honor the concerns of all parties. My leadership record over the past decade in highly controversial community processes (creation of public water systems, and complex development agreements) gives me great optimism that it is possible to find citizen and community-based solutions.

Mike Doherty (D) Clallam County

On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how important is completing the Olympic Discovery Trail to you and your constituents? Please explain briefly.

The ODT is a key recreational resource, general tourist attraction and resource for hosting bicycle, hiking, equestrian and other events. The trail will continue to progress as a priority, assuming that we will continue to receive federal grants, donations and thousands of volunteer hours. Ranking its importance amongst all the diverse and variable requirements for public spending is not realistic. Clallam County government has many priorities for spending, including public safety and public health.

2. Will you work to see the Olympic Discovery Trail is extended west to Forks & LaPush in the next four years? If so, what specific actions do you intend to take in order to accomplish this?

Absolutely. The trail west of Port Angeles should progress rapidly by utilizing low volume haul roads. County staff and others have worked with public and private agencies, as well as individuals, to route-find and locate alternative rights-of way. I have participated in limited route-finding and can, in many cases, discuss the ground involved with land managers and owners. Other west end communities want to be a part of the trails movement. The Pacific Northwest Trail may proceed from the ODT route north to Cape Alava and Cape Flattery, for example. Many Clallam Bay and Sekiu residents envision a trail up the Hoko Valley, connecting with the PNW Trail. The Makah tribal council and the Clallam Bay/ Sekiu Chamber of Commerce and the Community Advisory Council are supportive of local trails connecting with regional trails.

3. Aside from passage of annual county budgets, what, if any, specific things have you done to further the Olympic Discovery Trail during your tenure in public office?

1. Our Board of County Commissioners created the County Trails Advisory Committee to formalize increased citizen involvement in trail planning, construction and maintenance. We also authorized hiring of a volunteer coordinator, within the Parks Department, to increase meaningful volunteer work on the trails and in other areas.

2. I have briefed our U. S. Senators, Congressman Dicks, Governor Locke and many others on this project. On her recent visit to Clallam County, Senator Murray and I discussed the trail progress as I drove her around the West End. She reiterated her commitment to assisting with federal funding for the project. I have briefed tribal chairmen and Councils on the ODT.

3. The PNW Trail utilizes the ODT in our County. I have maintained contact with Geri Krampetz of the PNWT regularly to encourage her to expand the SKY trail program with at-risk youth in our area. For two years we have utilized the SKY program and it has been a great success. The young people enrolled in this program have made a sizeable contribution of work on the trails. Currently I am encouraging Geri to initiate a SKY program in the West End school districts. I have also supported the inclusion of youth trail crew funding in the U. S. Dept. of Labor appropriations bill.

4. On a personal level, I have hiked in this area for over 50 years. Two of our sons and myself have volunteered on ODT projects.

Phil Kitchel, Republican Clallam County

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how important is completing the Olympic Discovery Trail to you and your constituents? Please explain briefly

1.) I would rate this as probable a two or three. Mostly because it is not well known west of the Elwha as to how this might be of benefit to the West End of Clallam County. The overwhelming concern in this area is the poor economy and the state of the county's budget.

2. Will you work to see the Olympic Discovery Trail is extended west to Forks & LaPush in the next four years? If so, what specific actions do you intend to take in order to accomplish this?

2.) I will support continueing the work on the ODT as long as it is 100% funded by the Federal Government. The revenues do not exist in either the County's Current Expense Fund or the Road Fund to support this federal project. I also am opposed to condeming property for the purpose of building a trail, the route design has to accomodate the wishes of the property owners.

3. Aside from passage of annual county budgets, what, if any, specific things have you done to further the Olympic Discovery Trail during your tenure in public office?

3.) During my four years of office I supported the efforts of Commissioner Ireland in her efforts (which were great) to acquire and build parts of the trail from PA east. I very much agree with her efforts to work with interested sellers and to build support for the multi-use philosophy for the trail.