

Summer 2002 Newsletter

A Summer of Progress!

Sequim

Sequim is planning on a grand opening of the Olympic Discovery Trail sometime in September. Early in July a mile of trail was paved from Simdars Road to the Johnson Creek Trestle.

The Johnson Creek Trestle is finished and open. We did it under budget, ahead of schedule and nobody called in sick. We will be adding artwork, signs, paint and jump-outs. These jump-outs are extensions on the side of the trestle that were originally used to hold water barrels used for fire fighting-apparently trestles had a propensity for catching on fire from the old steam locomotives. In August I will be rallying the troops for that one last day of work.

The work parties have been fun. We have had 25-30 people every Saturday. The food was been great, coffee hot and working conditions excellent

Port Angeles

The Ennis Creek Bridge has been sand blasted, welded, primed, painted and is ready to move. It is not improbable that this could be in place and ready for use by the end of August. After we get it placed over Ennis Creek (in the Rayonier Mill site) we will need to deck it and put handrails on it. This should be a fairly quick job, but we will need help from the Port Angeles trail crowd.

Jefferson County

Jefferson County has added another mile of trail to the Larry Scott Memorial Trail Park from Mill Road to SR -20. All that is needed now is fencing and signs.

Public Hearings on the Non-motorized Trails and Recreation Plan in front of the Planning Commission are still proposed for September. You need to keep time open in your schedule for these hearings. This plan is exactly what Jefferson County needs if they are ever to catch up with Clallam County.

Clallam County

The gap in the ODT between Siebert Creek and Robin Hill is closing. The county will be starting work on a mile of trail between Siebert Creek and the Agnew store in September.

West of Port Angeles route finding continues and the latest word is that the people in Clallam Bay also want to be connected to the ODT.

Victoria Cyclists

A group of about 10 Victoria bicyclists visited the trestle on their way to Port Townsend. They were the first international group to cross the trestle. They were well dressed, well mannered and didn't start any fights while they were there. After reading all the negative letters in the paper about trail users, we were a little relieved that their visit went so smoothly.

Negative Publicity

There has not been a trail in the country that has been developed without opposition. However, after trails go in they become a favorite asset of the community and as the opposition begins to use the trail they realize their fears were unfounded and their efforts misplaced. The ODT is, and will, be no different than any other trail in the country.