

## **Adventure.**

The final four miles on the Adventure Route between the Joyce-Piedmont Road and Lake Crescent are almost finished. About 600 feet of the trail remains to be constructed and should be complete in about a month. The part that is already built has been well laid out and rides easily.

As you leave the Joyce Piedmont road and head west the trail drops down into Fielding Creek and then promptly climbs up the other side and wraps around the north side of a hill where there are panoramic views of the Strait from Clallam Bay to Striped Peak.

On much of the trail, horse traffic is kept separate from the bicycle and hiking traffic. Horses use the more direct logging road. It is a bit steeper, but more importantly, has a firm road base and is much safer for horses. The newly constructed portion of the trail still has some soft spots because of mountain beavers, and not yet safe for horses.

When it is complete, the 24 miles from Lake Crescent to Highway 112 will be one of the best stretches of hike/bike/horse trails in the state. Rich James, at the County, has plans to eliminate the portion of trail running on the Joyce Access Road by constructing a trail running parallel to the road.

Parking is limited on the Joyce-Piedmont Road at the trail access points but people have been parking in a turn-about a couple hundred yards south of the trail. If you park in the turn-about make sure you park off to the side so it can still be used as a place for cars and trucks to turn around.

The County now has a signed agreement with DNR to allow use of the Adventure Route and they are planning an official opening event for sometime this fall. They want to put up bike/car caution signs along the Joyce-Piedmont Road before officially opening the trail.

## **East of Sequim**

The County is still optimistic that the section of ODT from the tribal center at Sequim Bay to Whitefeather Way will be open sometime this year. The trail is usable from Sequim Bay to Dawley Road. Ultimately, will use Dawley Road to get to Sequim Bay State Park, but the route through the park hasn't been defined. Parts of the trail west of the park that will be running on the old railroad corridor that has not been cleared, and the trestle just east of West Sequim Bay Road has not been refurbished. There is a possibility that the PTC might be asked to refurbish the trestle. The County wants to pour a concrete surface for the trail on the trestle so we may be looking for concrete volunteers. Let us know if you know how to tie rebar and work with concrete.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

Here is another volunteer opportunity for those of you who would like to get out and actually *build* trail. The **Olympic Dirt Society**, local grassroots trail organization, is hosting a trail building and biking event later this month with the help of the International Mountain Biking Association. Contact Scott Tucker to get involved with this.

### **Olympic Dirt Society**

By Scott Tucker [www.olympicdirtsociety.blogspot.com](http://www.olympicdirtsociety.blogspot.com) (417-1004 or 477-9288)

The Olympic Dirt Society is a local group of mountain bike enthusiasts committed to developing the riding opportunities. We are an informal and completely grassroots club. Our members come from a cross-country/ downhill background. All of our efforts have been centered on "Dry Hill" aka Dry Creek Hill just west of Port Angeles. The reason we started here is there was a base of trails to start with, cooperative land-owners, and its convenient location. We have put on a few successful bike events this year and plan for more and possibly some racing.

Our current trail selection is a one-of-a-kind for the state. In my opinion, downhillers have not yet been served too well in our state mainly due to perceived liability, and general misunderstanding. We would like to commit at least the next year to begin to develop a group of locals as committed as we are, to help expand a network of trails up there. There is a very good base of trails already (mainly old motorcycle trails, abandoned as the mountain became basically off limits to motorized use) and numerous options to link them together. Additionally there are many miles of old skidder/logging roads that can be used. No cars, few motorcycles, almost no mud, no ruts, killer views in all directions, easy access, great elevation for year-round riding, trails for all abilities and progressing your own abilities, etc.

Our biggest asset is our landowner support. We have a trail stewardship agreement with the WA DNR, and they have been very supportive. Green Crow is also mountain bike friendly and both give us access via keys to a locked gate for maintenance and functions.

We carry insurance through the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) to protect ourselves and the landowners.

IMBA heard about what we were doing and asked us if we would like a visit from their trail crew, (this is significant because you generally have to apply for their help). Dry Hill stood out because of its "purpose" built trails including jumps, challenging terrain, and technical trail features, such as bridges, wood berms, log rides and other fun stuff. We have a good relationship with the Department of Natural Resources and our local contact, Wayne Fitzwater has even been the IMBA world mountain bike conference.

### **Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA)**

*From Daniel Collins Regional Coordinator for the PNTA –“The crews this summer have done excellent quality work. Bravo!”*

### **Quilcene Ranger Corps – Middle School Students**

The Ranger Corps started work on the second week of July. They picked up where the Corps had left off in '06 and returned with several veteran crewmembers. The Gold Creek trail from Lower

Mt Zion has been a priority of the Forest Service and of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association since a planning session in 2003 as this route will form a segment of the new Pacific Northwest Trail into the Olympic interior via Constance Pass and will provide a great recreational trail for locals. Much, if not all of this new trail had been flagged by the Backcountry Horsemen Buckhorn Chapter and cleared by the same and also handfuls of volunteers. The initial trail building this summer involved removing tree stumps along a 200' steep side slope. By late July, the Ranger Corps moved over to join the SKY trail crew that was building tread from the old #2830 road. Youth on the Corps are about 50:50 from Quilcene and Chimacum Middle Schools.

#### Clallam SKY (Service Knowledge, Youth)-High School Students

Based out of Forks, the "Forks Crew" cleared brush and tread on the Kloshe Nanich trail that leads to an old fire lookout off of Highway 101. From there, they built turnpike and brushed on the Lower Bogachiel trail. Their special assignment this summer was to team up with retired Forest Service staff, and further develop the "wetland" trail by building tread and drainage structures. This trail is an offshoot of the Bogachiel Trail and could be described as a bucolic loop for lovers of old growth forests. It is not more than ¼ mile from the Bogachiel trailhead. During the last week of July, this crew cleared trail from the Boulder Shelter to Marmot Pass, and re-established tread up high on granular slide slopes. They also installed turnpike on a side slope that had tremendous windfall and some trail bench damage. In 2008, the Forest Service, having observed that blue thistle has invaded the high country, will have a crew removing this invasive from further encroachment. The last week of SKY work will be a team up with the SKY Crew from Jefferson County on Gold Creek for a tread reinforcement project not more than 50' from the river crossing.

#### Jefferson SKY (Service Knowledge, Youth)

This crew has focused trail work on Gold Creek up from the #2830 road. After clearing vegetation on the old road bed, much of their work has been building trail tread by benching out compacted roadfill with cutter mattocks and pulaskis. Crew have indicated that they will be using this trail heavily to get the full benefit from their sweat equity. (Benching is often building a serpentine tread from road grade to a steep depression caused by removal of a culvert and then bringing the tread back out to the continuing road grade.) This crew also spent a week in the Buckhorn Wilderness. After recovering a spooked pack llama carrying much of their food stuffs they were able to work on improving trail tread on the Upper Dungeness Trail. They also built a rock retention wall. When the SKY crews are not working on trail assignments, they are often doing service learning such as building greenhouses, painting schools, and restoring salmon-bearing streams from invasive plants.

### **Jefferson County**

Rich James (Clallam County Planner) and Russ Veenama (Director of the Port Angeles Chamber of Commerce) will be giving presentations to Rotary on August 22, 7:30 a.m. at the Highway 20 Roadhouse and December 3, 12:00 at the Fort Worden Commons. They'll be talking about how the

ODT has benefited their region of the Peninsula and how a complete trail (from PT to the coast) will bring even greater benefits to the Peninsula.

Phil Walkden is the new Adopt-A-Trail coordinator for JTC and volunteers have been busy clearing blackberry brambles from the Larry Scott Trail.

Nik Worden has been hired by Jefferson County to work as a liaison between the county, volunteers working on the trail and landowners along the trail. Recently Nic and volunteers re-flagged portions of the trail along Edwards Road and trail work should start soon.

Surfacing for most of the “missing mile” ( between SR-20 and the Cape George Trailhead) will be completed this fall. The easement for the first 700 feet from Hwy 20 adjacent along Thomas St (now Reynolds Rd) is topographically “challenged”(big hill). The county has been working with a property owner on development of this short segment. There may be an opportunity for volunteers to create a temporary route-around here if it proves to be necessary. The County will know more by the end of summer and communicate with Nik Worden regarding what opportunities exist for volunteer work.

## **Elections**

This fall there are elections for officials across the Peninsula who can influence the progress of the Olympic Discovery Trail in Sequim, Port Angeles, Clallam and Jefferson Counties. We’ll be asking all the candidates for their position on the development of the ODT and bringing you their answers in the next newsletter.

## **Adopt-a-trail**

We are looking for some people to adopt sections of the Olympic Discovery Trail within the City of Sequim (contact Cherie Picket) and in the County for a section of trail section near Robin Hill Park.

(contact Lorrie at 457-9418 or [lorriecampbell201@hotmail.com](mailto:lorriecampbell201@hotmail.com))

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