



## Chinook Trail Association Annual Meeting Sunday, February 25, 2018

*Text by Steve Jones*

### Something New

CTA has created a Paypal account for your convenience in donating funds or securing your annual meeting reservation.



See our website at  
[www.chinooktrails.org](http://www.chinooktrails.org)  
Or use the code to your left.

At our upcoming annual meeting on February 25th, CTA members and guests will be treated to a special program featuring Lorelei Haukness, the Recreation Program Manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Lorelei will talk about the Forest Service response to the Eagle Creek fire which burned over 48,000 acres.

You will hear about damage surveys, restoration plans, timelines, challenges and reopening schedules. Lorelei will also share information about alternative recreation opportunities, volunteer efforts, partnerships, and what the public can do to help in the months and years after the fire.

We gather at noon at the Water Resources Education Center at 4600 S.E. Columbia Way in Vancouver for lunch before the program. The meal is being catered by Artistic Catering. Lunch and program are \$25.00 for an individual; \$40 for

couples; and children 10 and under can come along for \$15. Be sure to invite friends and family to join us.

You can reserve your spot and your meal by:

- Sending in the attached form with your check (see page 4).
- Contacting Office Manager Ted Klump at [tedklump@gmail.com](mailto:tedklump@gmail.com).
- Payment can also be made via Paypal account.
- Use the donate button on our website: [www.chinooktrails.org](http://www.chinooktrails.org).

### Reservation deadline is February 16.



Looking west from Angel's Rest  
Source: U.S. Forest Service

## For More Information About CTA

Connect with us on Instagram  
[www.instagram.com/chinooktrail/](http://www.instagram.com/chinooktrail/)

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## For more information about CTA - continued

### AllTrails.com

For purposes of planning and promotion, we have divided The Chinook Trail into 4 quadrants. Quadrants 1 and 2 are in Washington. Quadrants 3 and 4 are in Oregon. Quadrant 1 begins in Clark County and goes east to Moss Creek campground. This is the most developed section of the trail. Find more information at [www.alltrails.com/trail/us/washington/chinook-trail-section-one](http://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/washington/chinook-trail-section-one)

### Cascade Hikers' Podcast

<http://northcascadehiker.com/cascade-hiker-podcast/092>

At minute 33 of the January 15 episode, Whitney LaRuffa is interviewed for about 15 minutes. Whitney is one of a few people to hike the entire length of the Chinook Trail.

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## National Public Lands Day

*Text and pictures by Steve Jones*

On September 30th we celebrated National Public Lands Day by brushing and cleaning the ADA trail at Cold Creek Campground. The day promotes both enjoyment of our public lands and volunteer activities which allow more people to access these resources. Today over 170,000 people across the country volunteer each year. Normally, a Discover Pass is required for this trailhead, but

showed up. There were plenty of tools on hand for our crew of about a dozen. Work began in earnest about 9 a.m. It is always gratifying to work with a group of people volunteering their time so that others can enjoy and explore our public lands. We made good progress: hand-pulling the trailing blackberry vines, re-grading the trail, and chopping off the salal that was growing into the trail.



There was only the briefest of sprinkles and the cool weather made for a perfect day to clear brush and spruce up the trail. We finished about 1 p.m. and headed back to the shelter at the day use area to enjoy a barbeque lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the trimmings prepared by

Public Lands Day is one of several days which allow free use of our public lands.

The ADA trail is a wood-edged compacted surface that leads gently uphill from the Cold Creek Day Use Area to a viewing platform overlooking a small waterfall on Cedar Creek.

The day dawned cloudy with rain in the forecast. Hot coffee (donated by Dutch Brothers Coffee) and doughnuts fueled the enthusiastic group that

Steve Klump and Phil Mitchell.

The timing was just right with the weather because as we loaded the tools to leave, the rain started and soon became a downpour.

We went home from another successful work party satisfied that the trail is usable for anyone. Please plan to join us next year for another fun day that also helps you earn a free Discover Pass.

***On a Similar Note: National Trails Day is the first Saturday in June – another one of our annual trail maintenance days and another “free day” to enjoy our natural treasures.***

# Sedum Ridge Trail Report: November 19, 2017

*Text and pictures by Logan Forgey & Andrew Mathe*

On a wet Saturday, Andrew Mathe and I headed east on Highway 14 on our way to the Sedum Ridge trailhead, just north of Stevenson, Washington. The Gorge was quite saturated, not unusual for this time of year. With a chance of rain in the afternoon, we started our 12 mile jaunt early, hoping to enjoy a rain-free hike (wishful thinking!).

We missed the unmarked trailhead the first time and had to turn around, but luckily we found it quickly. We put on our packs and made our way into the woods, leaving the Forest Service road behind. Having read available trip reports, we were not surprised to find the trail in poor shape. It was easy to see that the trail had seen far better days.

We continued north. Switchbacks at the start shot us high in elevation almost immediately. We soon layered down as the sun gained altitude overhead. Rays of light struggled through the heavily drenched, moss-covered branches of the firs that stood tall above us.



moss and lichens. The forest was reclaiming its ground.

As we moved north, the trail was even more natural. Old growth snags dotted the landscape; remnants of the legendary Yacolt Burn of 1902 (the fire that torched 500,000 acres and took 38 lives). The forest had regrown, but the ghostly trees still stand, giving us faith that in due time the Eagle

Creek Burn area will recover as well, to be enjoyed by future generations.

As we went on, the trail became rougher. Oregon grape, along with other native plants, had crept in and taken over the trail. Not too many boots had been up here; the trail was well over-grown.

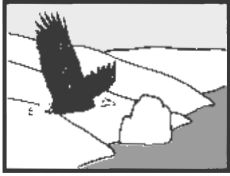
We hit snow at about 2,400 feet. Recent deer and bobcat tracks were clearly visible on the thin layer of snow. It was around this point, 3.5 miles into the Yacolt Burn State Forest, that we entered the Gifford Pinchot. From here, it was another 1.5 miles to the Pacific Crest Trail junction. The higher we hiked the deeper the snow: nearly over our hiking boots in many places. Just as the snow became too deep for comfort, we reached the intersection of the Pacific Crest Trail. Slightly north is Forest Road 41, a projected section of the Chinook Trail. It is at this junction that the CT meets the PCT. Through-hikers of the CT will appreciatively adopt the PCT for a number of miles as they trek east before continuing their route on the Grassy Knoll Trail in the Wind River area.

We decided to endure the heavy snow and walk part of Forest Road 41, heading west. However, after a half-mile of post-holing through the unexpected snowfall, we concluded it was in our best interest to take the PCT south, rather than sticking to our original itinerary of taking the Snag Creek Trail back down to the car. So, along the PCT we went.

The PCT led us south, downhill, and below the snow level. Our cold, wet feet were thankful for a break from the snow. Before we knew it, we came to a crossing of the North Fork of Snag Creek. Because the stream runs parallel to the trail, we were able to watch it grow into more of a white-water river. The stream cascaded triumphantly through the deep gulch below us, splashing over boulders and log build-ups—a quintessential Pacific Northwest scene. With saturated and heavy branches snapping off around us, we passed various



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Mark your calendars  
 Sun., Feb. 25th  
**CTA Annual Meeting**

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## Sedum Ridge Trail Report - continued

waterfalls as we trudged along.

At about our 10-mile mark, the PCT opened up to the Forest Service road that we had parked alongside. As we hiked the gravel road another two miles to our car, we passed multiple trucks driven by old-timers heading to their favored hunting grounds (as they have done for many decades).

Once in our car we drove south into Stevenson and grabbed a pint at the Walking Man Brewery before leaving the Columbia Gorge. It was another great Gorge trip for the books. We were happy to have found the Chinook Trail and even happier to have avoided the rain which began to fall on our windshield as we drove home.

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## Reservation for the Chinook Trail Association Annual Brunch and Meeting

Participant names with contact info (phone, email)

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Please indicate all that apply:

\$25 Single Adult     \$40 Couple     \$15 Under 10    Total remitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form in the enclosed envelope to:**

**P.O. Box 61686, Vancouver, WA 98666**

**or contact Ted Klump at [tedklump@gmail.com](mailto:tedklump@gmail.com).**

Payment may be made via check or Paypal.



(Click the donate button on our website: [www.chinooktrails.org](http://www.chinooktrails.org))