We’ve lost one of the best
Clay Gatchel
On December 3 not only we, but the world, lost one of its best. Today there are two fewer, bright yellow Courtesy Patrol vests to be regularly seen along the Foothills Trail. Missing more are the even brighter personalities proudly wearing those vests.

On Wednesday noon, November 23, as Clay and Dixie Gatchel were cycling back from their daily Courtesy Patrol to the new East Puyallup Trailhead, Clay’s pedal struck a bollard, and he crashed to the pavement. His crushed helmet had saved his head, but not his neck. The fall ruptured a critical cervical disc and left him quadriplegic. He left us peacefully on December 3, under the loving care of his wife Dixie and the staff at the Franciscan Hospice House in University Place.

At 86 and 81 years respectively, before that fateful day of their last bicycle ride together, Clay and Dixie shared 57 years of love and adventure as a couple. As newlyweds they spent their honeymoon in a rain-soaked tent at Longmire on a slope of Mt. Rainier. In the years that followed, they escaped falls into crevasses, white knuckle sailing mishaps, and other harrowing adventuresome incidents that Dixie says have left her with more fond memories than anyone should deserve.

Environmentalists to the core, the Alaska-bound boy from Brooklyn and the girl who

Ten purchases left

When the Board of Directors of your Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition had its retreat in January, one of the questions raised was: how much ownership remains to be purchased to complete the trail to Buckley and Wilkeson from the current end of the trail at South Prairie?

The Board desired to keep a running tally of the required purchases to see if we could help facilitate them in some way. The answer is: there are about six and possibly seven properties required in the South Prairie to Buckley section of the trail and three in the South Prairie to Wilkeson section.

The above numbers are based on the proposed route of the Foothills Trail and may increase or decrease if problems with some of these parties require the county change the route. The Coalition’s desire is that the proposed route should not be changed if at all possible.—Buzz Grant

How far we’ve come

In 1983, when Dr. Douglas Tait and Fred Hart began their quest to transform a section of abandoned Burlington Northern Rail Road into a trail, there were few precedents within the State of Washington. In fact, the newly formed Rails-to-Trails Conservancy could only identify 134 such trails within the entire nation. Today our state can boast 62 operating rail trails, totaling 617 miles, and 45 known projects in progress. Today there are rail trails in virtually every state except Hawaii for a total of 1,402 open trails, totaling 13,567 miles. In addition, according to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy there are 1,196 trails either planned or under development which, when completed, will add another 14,147 miles. It is now quite common for many bicycle and trail enthusiasts to chart their cross country vacations by the locations of trails in the various states. What a way to go!—Ernie Bay
Clay Gatchel (continued)

changed his plans in Portland, Oregon, spent most of their lives together in the out-of doors, much of it, until a year ago, as volunteers for the National Park Service. Living in tents and fire towers, they experienced the Pacific Northwest in all its seasons and in all its grandeur.

Dixie is especially thankful for the final years that she and Clay were able to spend together as goodwill ambassadors on Courtesy Patrol along the Foothills Trail. In that capacity one of their favorite activities was passing our "safe rider citations" to children they encountered who were wearing helmets. The citations rewarded the kids with recognition in their school papers and a free meal at Subway.

Clay may now be a ghost rider in the sky, but thankfully Dixie is still with us. With her cycling partner gone she will no longer be a regular on the trail, but neither will she forsake one of her favorite activities. She still has her yellow vest, and invites others to join the Coalition's Courtesy Patrol. As members they can don yellow vests of their own to help spread cheer and encourage trail safety and enjoyment. What better way to honor one of the best!—Ernie Bay

Meet your board: John E. Berry, III

John, who is well known to Washington's bicycle community and local legislators, has been campaigning and lobbying for bicycle safety issues for as long as most of us can remember. A native of Colorado and a Pacific Northwest-erner for the past ten years, John was nearly killed more than 20 years ago when struck on his bicycle by a car in Salt Lake City. Although severely disabled, John lives independently and has long been active in the Foothills Rails-To-Trails Coalition where he seldom misses a meeting. He has a surprisingly disarming sense of humor and is an articulate speaker for his causes. He also rides a mean three wheel recumbent. Just try to keep up with him out on the trail!—Ernie Bay

Letter received

Please accept my personal thanks for your on going efforts to support and promote Edgewood's segment of the Interurban Trail. Your video presentation and many positive comments were especially effective at our Nov. 22 council meeting. It is a real joy to be part of the greater vision of the regional trail system. Enclosed is my membership fee to become part of your wonderful organization. Appreciatively, Sue Miller, Edgewood City Council Member
Work parties planned beginning March 4

Your trusty trail crew has ambitious plans for 2006. We'll be starting off the year with a double work party on March 4, in Buckley. Our goals for the day are to clear a new section of trail and build a small, temporary bridge.

Other plans for 2006 include:
- Clearing brush and other obstacles on the Gale Creek section from Wilkeson to Cascade Junction for the Rainier to Ruston Relay, April 1 (no joke!),
- Planting five mile markers, and
- Building a memorial to Doc Tait in Buckley.

If you would like to participate in any future work parties, send Don Partington an email at cedarfamily@comcast.net. — Don Partington

Memberships and donations listed

$18 - 25

$26 - 50
Dale Blum, Betty Cox, Raymond G. Irion, Donald J. Parker, Beverly Peck, in memory of Roland Cushman.

$51 - 100

$101 - 499
Employees Community Fund of the Boeing Company (H. Althaueser, Garcia Ternes and anonymous), Richard Scott w/ Microsoft match, Tacoma Wheelmen’s Club and Bob & Koho Vogel.*

* Includes brick purchase (s)
** Includes tree purchase (s)
Networking for Trails

Buckley

The City of Buckley is moving toward completion of the Foothills Trail within the City limits. A work party is planned for March 4 to clear brush along the proposed route from the Buckley Armory to the White River. When this last section is finished, bids will be requested, and it is hoped that construction will be completed by the end of the summer. This project is being funded by an IAC grant and Buckley’s park fund.

Talks are underway between King and Pierce County and the cities of Enumclaw and Buckley to build a bridge across the White River linking the two cities.

Also, new benches have been placed along the trail next to the skate park, and picnic tables will be installed soon. Brackets to hold the new video cameras are still on backorder, and when they arrive two cameras will be installed - one to keep tabs on the skate park and one to be pointed at Mt. Rainier. These will be the first of hopefully many web cams along the Foothills Trail.

Buckley’s next project along the trail will be a new youth center next to the skate park and will give local kids a new place to “hang out.” Funding has been completed, thanks to a grant for $150,000 from County Council member Shaun Bunney. It is hoped that the youth center will be open in time for the start of school in the fall of 2006.—Pat Johnson

Edgewood

On January 10 the Edgewood City Council approved a motion authorizing the city manager to sign a real estate purchase agreement with Puget Sound Energy to buy the former Puget Sound Electric Railway right-of-way while granting PSE continued use and access to their power lines, and to sign all documents relating to the escrow and closing transactions.

The council then approved a motion to authorize the city manager to sign the Pierce County Conservation Futures agreement, which in effect accepts the grant funding for the purchase.

At this writing, the city manager has signed the PSE agreement and is awaiting its return with PSE signature. Hopefully, before the next Trail Line News, the City of Edgewood will officially own the Interurban Trail. —Diane Kerlin

Lower Burnett

In December, Jan Wolcott reported meeting with Grant Griffith on property acquisition. The trail in Lower Burnett from our high bridge east across South Prairie Creek and the Lower Burnett road must go out for bid in March to save two government grants.—Bill Harmon

Sumner

On January 5, the City of Sumner published a call for bids for their Riverside Trail Phase 1 construction of approximately 2,135 linear feet of asphalt paved trail at the confluence of the Puyallup and Stuck Rivers, beginning adjacent to State Street at the SR 410 over crossing and terminating at the Puyallup River Bridge at Traffic Avenue.—Dixie Gatchel

continued on next page

Foothills Trail Coalition Board

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Networking (continued)

Wilkeson

As Wilkeson embraces its newest council members, we plan on bringing forward our new goals at the next council meeting. Two people have been appointed to attend the Pierce County Regional Council. Chris Fabianni-Wilde and I will co-chair the seat. I understand from PC Parks and Recreation that Wilkeson is at the top of the list to get our trail surfaced as soon as weather permits. We are all looking forward to that event.

Happy trails, and maybe we will see you on a work crew or two. —Becky Gilbert

From the saddle

Starting a tradition

Horse riders are invited to get out and get visible on the Foothills Trail on Saturday, May 20 in a “Hoof Prints on the Foothills Trail” ride. All of us go out on the trail at different times by ourselves when we want – that is what the trial is for. But our presence as welcomed trail users gets overlooked, because we are out blazing trails of the future. Some of us spend many weekends each year rebuilding bridges and redefining old rail lines that are becoming multi-user trails in eastern Washington. Let’s get together on the trail here in our own back yard.

We can saddle up in the open area behind Jackie McMahon’s office on Washington (SR 162) and Bridge Street in Orting. If you are coming into Orting from the north, continue straight on Washington instead of turning right with the SR 162 flow. Jackie’s office is next to the old feed store on the corner; an open gravel lot comes next. I’ll be there before 9:30 a.m. to get my horse, Emma, ready and to help guide you into the "corral."

We will take the time to exchange horse stories and riding experiences before mounting up and heading north to Puyallup or in the other direction toward South Prairie. There may be enough of us to be able to split up and ride out in both directions. Let’s ride come rain or shine. This will be a great day for us to experience the Foothills Trail and discuss our mutual interests together.

This event is open to young buckaroos. In Pierce County, we need to involve and encourage young riders on occasions outside of the Western Washington Fair. If you know of a young rider that you could invite, please do so. Just like the trail itself, they are a part of the future equestrian scene. If they need some pre-event assistance, they can contact me directly at 360-897-6163 or clasyrdr@aol.com.

I’m planning on bringing picnic-style edibles to share continued on next page
Tradition (continued)

after the ride. Please bring along your own “tail” gate party favorite to close out the day.

Besides being a social event for our user group, I have invited non-horse-riding fellow board members of the Foothills Trail Coalition to attend and take notes. These folks and, through them, Pierce County have always welcomed horse riders as a user group. This will be an opportunity for our user group to exchange information and concerns for the development of future sections of the trail.

Please mark your calendars and make arrangements to be a part of the first annual “Hoof Prints on the Foothills Trail” event on Saturday, May 20. Be there and assure your place at the hitching post.

Happy Trails—Linda Clark

Landscape Architect, Don High, shares his model of a proposed memorial for Foothills Trail founder Dr. Douglas Tait with his widow Donna. The memorial features railroad artifacts including a “wig wag” signal and a railroad baggage cart together with appropriate plaques and a picnic table. The memorial will be located in Buckley adjacent to the trail where it joins Main Street just East of SR 410.—Ernie Bay
Retreat produces vision of future

We had a very productive Board retreat the weekend of January 21-22 against the beautiful backdrop of Henderson Bay. John Selby generously offered his family cabin for our retreat facility and introduced us to his friend and neighbor, Chick Sandifer, our retreat facilitator. Pat Johnson kept us fueled with delicious meals and snacks.

Chick led an exercise to help us envision our dreams for the Coalition and the trail. We found that, amongst our many and varied hopes and wishes, we all have the same basic goals. These were easily condensed to a vision statement:

We envision:

A vast network of linked, non-motorized, linear parks and greenways spanning our beautiful Pacific Northwest,

A comprehensive system of trails where a variety of users can travel to any service or activity,

Dedicated groups of community volunteers, of all ages and abilities, to oversee the maintenance, use and preservation of the system.

Then we considered the major action steps to be taken to make the vision a reality. These steps include:

- Publish and sell our vision.
- Mobilize the public to demand building trail.
- Decide the best approach to education.
- Sustain and grow the organization.
- Build a coalition of coalitions.
- Influence cities.
- Get Pierce County moving.
- Expand Courtesy Patrol.
- Open up new trails.
- Develop system to avoid encroachment.
- Promote business involvement.

At our February meeting we plan to reorganize our committees to ensure that we address these steps and keep our efforts focused on achieving our vision. — Tom Enlow

"I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it." — Soren Kierkegaard

"If you are seeking creative ideas, go out walking. Angels whisper to a man when he goes for a walk." — Raymond Inmon
Along the Foothills Trail...

Do you recall last March when I was dithering about in dread of an anticipated drought? What a difference a year makes! This March we waterlogged outdoor lovers seek out every little ray of sunshine as respite from the deluge that has darkened our days this winter. Put worry aside, trail lovers. There is an adequate amount of snow up in them-thar hills to keep our faucets running for a prolonged period. (See picture of Chinook Pass Bridge.)

More and more trail lovers from near and far are discovering our beautiful Foothills Trail. More and more volunteers are needed to help keep them safe and informed. If you are a frequent visitor to the trail, why not join the Foothills Courtesy Patrol? It’s fun “work” and you meet so many wonderful folks. A planning session will be announced soon. Welcome to new members Gerald and Dorothy Larson. They are frequent trail users, with energy and enthusiasm to spare. Dorothy also volunteers for the Puyallup Police Department. Thanks for a “job well done” to current Courtesy Patrol members Ernie Bay, Doug and Kathie Carter, Gully Collier, Ed Davis, Buzz Grant, Lola Kaiser, Bob and Florence Larsen, Earl and Glory Mikkelson and Dottie Selby. Volunteers are also needed to help Don Partington with ongoing trail crew work projects designed to connect the spurs to the core trail.

Our Courtesy Patrol issued over 250 Safe Rider citations during the 2005 campaign to reward kids we encountered who were wearing safety helmets while traveling the trail on wheels. The kids greet these “citations” with delight, because they are good for a free Subway deli-round. The Safe Kids Coalition sponsors the program in partnership with Subway and Pierce County Parks and Recreation. Most of the kids “cited” live in Puyallup, Orting, Buckley, Bonney Lake, Tacoma and Graham, in that order. Twenty-five different cities were listed. The average age was 9, including a 17-year old from Tacoma and a two-year old from Graham. Camano Island was the most distant site.

Wild Cucumber which grows along the trail directly west of the Inglin dairy crossing.

Are you documenting your favorite Foothills’ flora and fauna sightings? I collect mine and pass them on to Veep Buzz Grant for inclusion in his wonderful “Walking History of the Foothills Trail.” Questions from visitors led to research on the wild cucumber (marah organus) which grows prolifically along the trail just west of the Inglin dairy crossing (see picture). It’s perennial and arises each year from a massive taproot, continued on next page

The Trail Line News is edited by John Selby at JohnandDottieSelby@att.net.

Newsletter layout is by Sarah Garmire at BSGarmire@cs.com. Photos and captions should be sent directly to her.
Gatchels (continued)

with long, thick branches arising from the main stem. The leaves are stalked and roughly heart-shaped with white, star-shaped flowers. The fruit is green, gourd-like, ovate and fleshy with prickly spines.

Some sources say the fruit and seeds are poisonous – others aren’t so sure. Advice from Aunt Dixie: Don’t eat wild cucumbers!

My favorite fauna sighting is the raucous Belted Kingfisher (see picture). It was so entertaining to see a male Kingfisher dive bombing head first from the railing of the Voight Creek Bridge into the Carbon River to spear salmon this past summer. The pigeon-sized male bird is blue-grey above and white below with a bushy crest and a dagger-like bill. The female is similar, but has a chestnut belly band. The call is a loud, harsh rattle. The image of the Kingfisher appears on the back of the Canadian five dollar bill. These sightings are one of the things that make traveling the Foothills Trail so much fun.

As some of you know, I lost my dearest husband Clay on December 3 as a result of dire injuries sustained in a fall from his bicycle at the Meeker Trailhead just as we completed our courtesy patrol for the day. Clay had numerous close calls with death during a very happy and active outdoor life. He always joked that he wanted to go with his boots on. In a way, he got his wish. Everyone is invited to an informal celebration of his life at a gathering in Mount Rainier National Park on Saturday, May 13, beginning at 11 a.m. Please come ready to share your memories of the past and visions for the future, and dressed in outdoorsy clothing so you may enjoy the park afterward.

Happy Trails and Peace out y’all—Dixie Gatchel

Coalition wins Stream Team Award

At the annual meeting of the Pierce County Conservation District on February 1, the Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition was presented with “The Stream Team Group of the Year Award” for their support in planting a wetland mitigation site along the trail.

Hundreds of volunteers planted 25,000 to 30,000 plants, many people spending their mornings in water and mud. Special appreciation was given to Coalition members John Downs, Earl Mikkelson, Joan Miller and Russ Matthews for their help in making this a successful project, one of the largest planting projects by the Pierce County Stream Team.

Since the planting, South Prairie Creek has flooded the area several times, but the majority of the plants are surviving in this ever changing environment. See for yourself by visiting the REI rest stop at the edge of the wetland, an excellent place to view eagles and other wildlife—Russ Matthews
This year’s designated honorees for Good Samaritan Hospital’s Walk For The Benefits are Dixie Gatchel and her late husband Clay. Volunteering was their life. “We did it because we loved it,” said Dixie Gatchel recently when asked when she and her late husband Clay had begun their volunteer “careers.”

For more than 40 of their 57 plus years together, Clay and Dixie Gatchel shared sometimes life threatening adventures, which led first to taking Red Cross safety courses for their mutual safety and eventually to saving lives and serving others. They became American Red Cross instructors, and for 25 years were patrolmen for the Washington Alpine Club and Snoqualmie Pass Ski Patrol. They served many years with Seattle Mountain Rescue and were seasonal volunteers for 20 years for Mt. Rainier National Park. In 1992 they moved to the Longmire Visitor Center where they volunteered full time as managers of the “Volunteers in Parks Program.”

For the past few years they were near daily volunteers for the Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition’s Courtesy Patrol. Wanting to share their love of the outdoors safely with all ages, Dixie and Clay zealously encouraged children on the trail to wear helmets by rewarding those who did with “Safe Rider Citations” from the Safe Kids Coalition. On the other end of the spectrum they served as members of the Senior Life Assistance Advocacy Association for the Disabled.—Ernie Bay

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Patrollers to hold breakfast meeting March 11

For current and prospective Courtesy Patrol members a breakfast meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 11, at O’Farrell’s Family Restaurant on the Puyallup River Walk at the north end of the downtown Puyallup Fred Meyer shopping center. This will also be an excellent opportunity for those who have not yet experienced the River Walk and especially its recently completed westward mile extension, which has been receiving rave reviews from users.—Ernie Bay

ForeverGreen coordinates trails

In many communities, the ability to walk, bicycle, or ride a horse safely from one part of town to another without interference from traffic is considered a valuable amenity. Real estate ads frequently feature trail access as a prime benefit of a property. Home owners are realizing that access to a trail is both enjoyable and makes their property more valuable.

In Pierce County, local towns and cities are working to use a combination of sidewalks, bike lanes and open space to provide recreational and alternative transportation options to residents. In eastern Pierce County, for example, the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition now has 18 miles completed in Puyallup, Orting, South Prairie and Buckley. The goal is to eventually have a trail from Tacoma to Mount Rainier National Park.

These existing trails have proven to be very popular and well used, but there is an effort underway to do even more. The ForeverGreen Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping coordinate and facilitate construction of a network of trails that would connect all the communities in Pierce County, as well as linking up with trails in neighboring counties. The council is composed of locally elected officials, trail users, business leaders, community planners and park directors.

When ForeverGreen began, public input was gathered to determine what kinds of parks were needed to meet population demand over the next 20 years. The message that consistently rose to the top was that trails and open space were one of the public’s highest priorities. Since then, trail plans have been inventoried and obstacles to trail construction have been identified.

During this process, it was discovered that the largest impediment to trail construction was the lack of county-wide coordination and specialized trail building skills available to small cities and park departments who would be building portions of a trail system that would eventually connect to one another. A potential solution became available last year when the Pierce Conservation District continued on next page


**ForeverGreen** (continued)

suggested a partnership with ForeverGreen to oversee a trails office that could offer technical assistance such as planning, trails construction, grant writing and real estate acquisition to local communities. Pending approval of funding, this trails office could open in mid-2007.—Kirk Kirkland, 2006 President of ForeverGreen

**Rainier to Ruston is Trails Day, June 3**

The 2006 Rainier to Ruston Rail-Trail Relay offers something for everyone on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3. It is a relay race, challenging teams of competitive runners during a 50-mile descent (six runners do two legs each of about four miles). It is a 26-mile relay for teams of walkers, who will marvel at the transformation from alpine to rainforest to coastline (six walkers do one leg each of about four miles). It is a qualifier for the famous Western States Ultra (each runner does all 50 miles solo). And most of all it is a cause worth supporting.

All proceeds from the relay will help fund the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition which has labored for nearly 20 years to complete a non-motorized public trail linking Mount Rainier to Commencement Bay.

This year a master’s division has been added as well as several miles of new and unimproved trail.

For additional information refer to web sites www.rainiertoruston.com and www.piercecountytrails.org.

Mark your calendars and start training to win the coveted golden spike!—John Selby

**Foothills Dash: 5K, 10K Fun Run, Walk is March 18**

Pierce County Parks and Recreation and the Foothills Trail Coalition present the Foothills Dash, Saturday, March 18. Registration and check in are at 8 a.m. at Puyallup Ridge Elementary, 805 Old Pioneer Way NW, Orting. The race will begin and end on the Foothills Trail.

Race time is 9 a.m. Costs are $15 before March 1, $20 after. T-shirts are $5. In addition, there will be a free one-mile fun run for youth 12 and under.—Ed Davis

**Senior Walk-a-thon is June 7**

The Buckley and Enumclaw Senior Centers will jointly host their seventh annual walk-a-thon on Wednesday, June 7, along the Foothills Trail in Buckley.

The brain child of Mary Andrews, who teaches exercise classes at the Buckley Senior Center, the walk is held to promote fun and walking as a daily exercise. Area seniors are encouraged to walk the Foothills Trail and, for this event, many seniors are joined by their children and grandchildren. Not a fund raiser but a raiser of fun, the walk-a-thon introduces people of all ages and abilities to the joy and benefits of walking. Local businesses and organizations donate prizes to be awarded and gift bags for the participants. There are no distance requirements, and everyone is encouraged to participate to the best of their ability. Many walk unassisted, but some use walkers and others are pushed in wheel chairs.

Start times and final details are still in the works. This year Mary Andrews of the Buckley Senior Center will co-chair the walk-a-thon with Donna Elzenga from the Enumclaw Senior Center. If you would like to participate, volunteer or donate money to this event, Mary can be reached at the Buckley Senior Center at 360-829-0190 and Donna can be reached at the Enumclaw Senior Center at 360-825-4741.

Be sure to come out and support this wonderful group of senior citizens.—Pat Johnson

**Rainier to Ruston teams forming**

Join other Coalition members in a day of good exercise and fun on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3. The Coalition is seeking participants for forming at least two teams—one walking team, and one masters (over 40) running team. Learn more about the event at www.rainiertoruston.com. If interested, call Ed Davis at 253-862-7982 or email him at edfdavis@aaahawk.com. Accept this challenge and make your day!—Ed Davis
Over the past year, the Cascade Land Conservancy has been involved in a number of land conservation projects and programs in Pierce County, but a look at two relatively small transactions can show how small does not necessarily mean insignificant.

One of the best examples came last November when the CLC purchased the Crandall property, only 5.3 acres, but directly neighboring Mount Rainer National Park’s Carbon River entrance. This purchase is part of the Conservancy’s work along the Carbon River for the past five years in concert with a number of other Pierce County groups active in the area. The goal has been to conserve as much of the entrance way to the Park as possible. The Crandall property was an inholding near the new park expansion area. The U.S. Forest Service eventually will acquire the Crandall property from CLC, probably in the next two to four years.

“This is a small piece of property, but an important one,” said Ryan Dicks, CLC Conservation Director for Pierce County. “It connects up several pieces of property in the area, promoting the work of several Pierce County groups active in the Carbon River area.” The Crandall family also supported the CLC’s efforts to move the property into public ownership.

“Our family is grateful to theCascade Land Conservancy for its investment in this precious land,” said Dan Crandall, a family member. “Our brother Perry, an artist, was entranced by the waterfalls that cascade down its hillsides. He would be pleased that this place of beauty and meaning has been secured by Cascade Land Conservancy.”

The other example shows the way a long-term commitment to land can help other groups in their conservation goals. In May, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, the popular Pierce County attraction in Eatonville, completed the purchase of 100 acres of property critical to the park’s future, completing a transaction started in 2003 by the Cascade Land Conservancy. An $850,000 grant from Pierce County Conservation Futures was awarded to the park, allowing them to purchase the property along Trek’s northwest border. The land had been platted for intensive residential development that would have resulted in homes backed right up to Trek’s signature tram tour route. In 2003, the Cascade Land Conservancy acquired the property on Trek’s behalf.

The 100-acre property adjoining Trek is a diverse ecosystem comprising forests, wetlands and meadows. Working with the community, Trek staff members are exploring several possible uses for the land, including endangered species research and breeding programs, environmental education and outdoor recreation. CLC stepped into the transaction in 2003, buying the property to be held until Northwest Trek was able to raise funds to repurchase it. Most parties agree that Northwest Trek’s completion of the purchase would not have occurred without the involvement of the Conservancy. Northwest Trek said the acquisition is the largest single acreage increase for the 615-acre park since Dr. David and Connie Hellyer donated the original property to the Metropolitan Park District in 1975. In addition to this and other public commitments, Trek raised $179,203 from private sources. This latest award caps a two-year effort to secure the $1.4 million total.— John Olson

IAC (continued)

How to Apply
Send a completed application to IAC no later than March 8. Applications are available:


Telephone: Call Lorinda Anderson at 360-902-3009

E-mail: Lorindaa@iac.wa.gov.
New Members Always Welcome
If you appreciate the work that we are doing and wish to see more trails, please consider joining us. Foothills Trail memberships start at $18 single and $25 family. Credit cards accepted.

- $18 Single
- $25 Couple
- $50 Trail Builder
- $100 Hero
- Even more! Honorary Member

Trees for the Trail / Orting Trail Kiosk Engraved Bricks

___ Number of tree(s)  @ $50 per tree or brick = $ ___________
___ Number of brick(s)

Name(s) to appear on Tree Tag or Brick __________________________
__________________________________________________

Charge my □ VISA or □ Mastercard
No: __________________________ Exp: __________
Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________ Zip: _______________
Phone: __________________ Signature: __________________

Mark your categories, mail form and check to:
Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
P.O. Box 192, Puyallup, WA 98371-0021

State Rec Agency seeks volunteers

The state Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) is looking for six volunteers to fill vacancies on two of its advisory committees.

The advisory committees make recommendations to the IAC on program policies, project funding and statewide planning. Three volunteers are needed for the National Recreational Trails Program, which gives grants to maintain trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience. Generally, members are asked to attend one weekly meeting a year and spend 10-20 hours evaluating projects for funding. When the budget allows, per diem is provided. Members are generally appointed for four-year terms.

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