



Pacific Crest Trail Association

Steve Queen, Mount Hood Area Coordinator

11120 Southwest 109th Avenue, Tigard, Oregon 97223, Phone: 503-639-5699

January 5, 1996

Mount Hood Area Report

Accomplishments in 1995

Last year, the Mount Hood Chapter of the PCTA took on more PCT responsibility. In 1994, we had the 110 miles between the Columbia River and Breitenbush Lake which includes the Mount Hood National Forest (MHNF) and part of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA). Because of our proximity to the PCT in southern Washington and the advantages of maintaining one direct contact for any single agency, we took on the 20 miles of PCT between the Columbia River and Road 2000.

Also last year, Harold Lyon of the Oregon Mule Skinners approached me with a proposal to adopt a section of PCT. Scott Conover and I visited their meeting in McMinnville and Scott gave a slide show of his 1994 PCT thruhike. As a result, the Oregon Mule Skinners have adopted the ten miles between Jude Lake and Breitenbush Lake. We look forward to getting good work done on the PCT with our new ally.

In August, the Mount Hood Chapter of the PCTA entered into a volunteer agreement with the Mount Hood National Forest that covers all volunteers in a PCTA/USFS project.

Finally, we accomplished a good number of projects in 1995 totaling about 500 hours of volunteer hours. I wanted to spend some quality time with my new daughter and I was able to get some dedicated individuals to do most of the recruiting and on-site leadership associated with each project. Specifically, I want to thank Jack Konner (2), Alan Young, Brice Hammack, and Dave Cobb for their hard work.

1995 Completed Projects

Dates	Description
April 1	Scouting 1 - Road 2000 to Columbia River (2 days)
April 22	Brushing and Reconstruction - Columbia River Gorge
June 3	Brushing - Wapinitia Pass to Little Crater Lake
June 17	Drainage - Barlow Pass to Wapinitia Pass
July 22	Brushing - Benson Plateau (2 days)
September 9	Burm Removal - Wapinitia Pass (2 days)
September 30	Brushing - Lolo Pass
October 7	Signing - Road 2000 to Columbia River (2 days)

Goals for 1996

Scouting Projects

We will try to scout every inch of our 130 miles of PCT by breaking it into sections. We have experimented with scouting before, but this season we will concentrate on trail and sign maintenance as well as project identification. Scouting teams will be comprised of three to five people and will hike each section as soon as possible after the snow has cleared. The proposed project dates for five scouting sections is listed in the Project Schedule below. It is important that the project leader, as well as the volunteers s/he recruits, be flexible since the schedule may change due to weather and existing snow conditions. Further, these projects may change due to travel logistics, or other factors.

Responsibilities of a scouting team will be:

- **Remove blowdowns and minor trail obstructions.** Depending on the size of the group, a team will carry one or two hand saws, and one pair of loppers. The Area Coordinator will provide any of the tools needed by the project leader.
- **Identify maintenance projects.** Open-ended maintenance project dates will be scheduled shortly after each scouting project to address identified projects.
- **Post 3½" PCT logos.** We will probably use the oak markers left from the signing project in 1994, but we are encouraging the MHNH to switch to the metal color logos. The Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area already has adopted metal logos as their standard.
- **Identify signing requirements.** Some signs at trail junctions may require replacements due to natural causes or vandalism. Also, some trail junctions will need to be completely resigned due to deficiencies in the original sign plan. In addition, one scout on each trip may record photographic evidence of each sign location.
- **Remove litter.** Each team member will hike with a trash bag. It is recommended that bags be packed so that they can be accessed without removing the backpack

Maintenance Projects

Trail maintenance projects will be identified by scouting teams, forest service personnel, and those that are performed on a regular basis. I have proposed five scouting and six trail maintenance projects.

1996 Project Schedule (proposed)

Dates	Description
April 6-7	Scouting 1. Road 2000 to Columbia River, 20 miles
April 20	Maintenance. Columbia Gorge
May 11-12	Scouting 2. Lolo Pass to Columbia River, 30.7 miles
May 25	Maintenance.
June 14-16	Scouting 3. Breitenbush Lake to Clackamas Ranger Station, 35.8 miles
June 15-16	Scouting 4. Timberline Lodge to Clackamas Ranger Station, 24.8 miles
July 6-7	Scouting 5. Timberline Lodge to Lolo Pass, 18.7 miles

Dates	Description
July 20	Maintenance.
August 24	Maintenance. Muddy Fork
September 14	Maintenance.
September 28	Maintenance.
October 26	Mount Hood Volunteer Pot Luck

Signing

In 1994, we completed the signing for the entire section Oregon PCT in our Area. Because this was the first signing project of its kind, there are still many rough edges that need to be ironed out. Most notably:

- Our volunteers overwhelmingly dislike the oak branded logos. They are usually extremely difficult to see when new and only get worse when they fade with age. They also are not durable; they crack easily during installation and from the chronic stress caused by attaching them to trees with large nails. We have recommend that the MHNH use metal 3½” logos in the future. It sounds as though this won't be too much of a problem in the non-wilderness areas as long as the existing batch of non-wilderness wood logos are used up.
- Many of the signs we took down were considerably better than the ones we put up...but the weren't standard!. This year I want to perform a sign inventory to identify the spots we need to fix and compile a photographic database of each sign location. I would like to find one person to do the whole inventory in one trip, but we may have to do this during our scouting projects.

Training

In addition to our accomplishments over the last two years, I have tried to line up training for our volunteers during each of the last two years, however, each time it has fallen through. I want this year to be the year that our volunteers begin to participate in MHNH supervised or approved training sessions.

Tools

Each trail maintenance project that our chapter has performed in the past has been led by the MHNH or the CRGNSA, and they have provided tools and insurance (technically we were employees during these projects). This year we will be doing light trail maintenance on the PCT during of our scouting projects and need tools. Although we have a really good group of people, and it shouldn't be a problem for volunteers to bring their own tools, we need to develop an inventory of lightweight handsaws and loppers.

Steve Queen
 Mount Hood Area Coordinator
 Pacific Crest Trail Association