



# Klamath Trails Alliance Summer Newsletter



View south from the east ridge of Spence Mountain, above KTA's proposed trailhead. © Drew Honzel

## Summer is Flying!

Highlights within the newsletter include: **updates on Spence Mountain trail project, improvements on the Klamath Ridge View trail, new trail in Moore Park, membership totals, and summer trail maintenance efforts!**

**The Klamath Trails Alliance works cooperatively with trail users, land owners, and others to promote, develop, and maintain a network of trails for non-motorized recreation in and around Klamath County, Oregon.**

## Approvals for Spence Mountain Project!

Several positive things have happened over the last three months with our **Spence Mountain Trail project**.

First, a Trail Use Agreement was approved by JWTR in April allowing KTA to implement a phased trail system over the next several years. JWTR has been extremely supportive of this project. Oregon Department of Forestry has been equally supportive allowing KTA to use their property for our trailhead and has even offered to clear a parking lot for KTA!

Trail flagging commenced in May and continued through June providing a rough trail layout from the proposed Howard Bay Trailhead located off Hwy 140 up the East Ridge of **Spence Mountain**. The trailhead will be

located at 4,300' elevation and the first 2-3 miles of trail will climb 700' to the top of the East Ridge at 5,000'. The actual summit of **Spence Mountain** is 5,841' and lies two miles west of the East Ridge. The next step involves pin flagging the actual trail path prior to construction. Our goal is to complete the first 2-3 miles of trail layout and begin construction later this year.

The last bit of good news is Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) formally approved an approach off Hwy 140 making the Howard Bay Trailhead possible. This trailhead will be only 12 miles from town! Next steps include surveying the property and engineering the approach. Construction of the trailhead will likely come in 2014 due to funding.

## Upcoming Events

- KTA Saturday Trail workdays – second Saturday of each month (Aug. 10, Sep. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9) – meet at 7:45 a.m. above the Gingerbread House in Moore Park
- Thursdays at 6 p.m. through Oct. 25 - SOLE Trail Running Series, sponsored by Asana Yoga (portion of proceeds help local trails!)

[www.asanayoga.net/specialty-running-store/running-races-events/](http://www.asanayoga.net/specialty-running-store/running-races-events/)

**Growing the network of recreational trails in beautiful Klamath County, Oregon...**

Trail maintenance along the Klamath Ridge View Trail, June 2013.



## Trail Maintenance: Glamorous in its own way!

When you put out the word that volunteers are needed to help cut a new trail, dozens show up. When you put out the call for trail maintenance, far fewer show up. Trail maintenance is just not as sexy as cutting new tread. But without trail maintenance crews, there would be no new trails built. Over time, trails would become blown out, overgrown and eroded.

Klamath Trails Alliance (KTA) is getting organized and finding better ways to attract crews. For some, this is the third year they have helped out. Led by Hutch's and Kevin Jones, the mountain biking community has re-routed old trails, decommissioned others and planned new ones, all in Moore Park. Others have helped clean up rough areas on the Klamath Ridge View Trail.

KTA, this past April, held its first two-day Trail Maintenance Summit. We had ten people show up and spend both days discussing how to attract volunteers, what tools to buy and how to train crews.

We continue to hold monthly trail maintenance days on the second Saturday of every good weather month. We meet at the main entrance of Moore Park, just behind the Gingerbread House at 7:45. We have a quick briefing, focusing on safety, then head out to a previously scouted work site. We head back to base camp around 11:30, then to Abby's for pizza, paid for by Friends of Moore Park. Abby's has been very generous, donating one pizza for every one we purchase. In addition to good food after, it provides a venue for ideas – in fact, the idea for the Spence Mountain trail network came from such a lunch! Join us on an upcoming trail maintenance day and be a part of the action!



KTA thanks two of our board members, Don Hoffheins and Charlie Erdman, who have recently left Klamath Falls for professional opportunities elsewhere. They have helped push our trail efforts along substantially during the last year, particularly on the Spence Mountain project, and they will be missed! Best of luck to both Don and Charlie!

### How to Become Involved with KTA

Visit the KTA website, [www.klamathtrails.org](http://www.klamathtrails.org), for more information on projects and events. Join KTA by visiting <http://klamathtrails.org/join/>. Membership begins at \$20, and funds go to anything from tool purchases to printing brochures. Email [info@klamathtrails.org](mailto:info@klamathtrails.org) to join the mailing list for updates.



Trail maintenance along the Klamath Ridge View Trail in June.

### Klamath Ridge View Trail Update

BLM Crew 7, a 20 person fuels management and fire suppression crew stationed in Klamath Falls, recently did maintenance work on the Klamath Ridgeview trail. The crew spent a half day realigning a short section of the trail on a steep slope, and cut and grubbed out roots and brush stubs on 1/4 mile of tread in that area. The timing was good as shortly after that the crew deployed to fight a wild land fire in southwest Colorado for 2 weeks. Thanks to Grant Weidenbach for coordinating this effort!

### Moore Park Trail Update

Construction has begun on the first rough cut of new trail in Moore Park on the hillside above the Klamath Ridge View Trail. This trail was designed last summer by Kevin Jones and is being cut this summer by a crew from Northwest Youth Corps, who also cut new trails in Moore Park last summer. Thanks to the City of Klamath Falls and Friends of Moore Park for helping to support trail monitors to enable trail construction in Moore Park. This trail will offer spectacular hillside views of Klamath Falls and Upper Klamath Lake. Kevin Jones will be coordinating informal trail crews to work on this project throughout the rest of the summer – contact [kevin11jones@yahoo.com](mailto:kevin11jones@yahoo.com) to join in!

### Membership through July 2013:

- 39 individuals
- 2 businesses



**We Look Forward to Seeing You on the Trails!**