Packwood Trail Project Website 2.0

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**ABOUT US**

**Mission**

The Packwood Trail Project is a local non-profit organization founded by community members with a vision for development and maintenance of a multi-use, non-motorized system of trails.

Our Mission is to develop and maintain a trail network in the Packwood area that (is):

* Non-motorized, built for hikers, runners, and mountain bikers
* Relatively easy to walk and ride
* Accessible year round, below the common winter snowline
* Pavement accessible at trailheads
* Provides an economic benefit to the Packwood area
* Brings together agencies, groups, and community
* Interprets the rich natural and cultural history of the area
* Link in with existing USFS system trails

It is amazing what a small, determined community can accomplish.

Imagine the possibilities here in the upper Cowlitz Valley!

**Where is Packwood?**

Packwood is an unincorporated community located just south of Mount Rainier in easternmost Lewis County, Washington. Packwood is 90 miles west of Yakima and 75 miles east of Centralia on Highway 12. This is one of the more remote small cities in Western Washington and is encircled by the beautiful Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Until the mid-2000's, Packwood was driven by a forest products economy with a lumber mill and a Forest Service work center. These two employers, plus a strong seasonally recreational community, provided the economic base for the town. Since the mill closed and the Forest Service closed the work center, the town of Packwood has struggled to find a new identity and to promote deeply rich recreational opportunities.

**Need**

The needs for such a network of trails are categorized as:

* Filling a void in recreational opportunities
* Building strong community
* Health and quality of life
* Economic growth
* Relationship building between government agencies, public organizations, and community

There are more than 30 trails that are within 10 air miles of Packwood, however, these trails are neither accessible during the winter nor for much of the shoulder seasons. From November until April, there is a noticeable absence of outdoor experiences, trail running, hiking, and bike riding. This is neither by design nor by necessity. Although downtown Packwood (elevation 1060 feet) does often get snow during the winter months, it rarely stays around for more than a week. The winter snowline usually starts at about 2000 feet.

Furthermore, trails that do exist near Packwood are too steep to ride up or for many, even to walk up. Most of the trails leave from the valley floor and climb several thousand feet within one or two miles.

We suggest building a trail or system of trails in the elevation range between 1100 and 1600 feet with potential access points on Highway 12, Skate Creek Road (FR 52), Snyder Road, and Cannon Road. We want to see the trails with relatively little elevation gain and loss. A network of trails and trailheads with year-round access would serve as a boon to the residents and visitors of Packwood.

**Conceptual Design & Plan**

(Perhaps this is a section we omit until we have tangible projects that can be shared with the public)

**Board of Directors**

Stefan Lofgren - President, Leadership Committee Chair

Tim Lofgren - Treasure, Finance Committee Chair

Gerry Monkman - Secretary

Tyler Forman

Gretchen Fritsch

Jeb Scalf

Sarah Schmidt - Public Relations Committee Chair

**Supporters & Partnerships**

There is a rapidly growing list of local businesses, groups, and organizations who have expressed their verbal support for this project!

Please email us if you want to add your business or group to this list. packwoodtrailproject@gmail.com

Local Agencies and Land Managers:

US Forest Service, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District

Packwood and Local Business Owners:

Ace Hardware

Blanton’s IGA Grocery

Packwood Chevron

Packwood Spirits

Packwood Station

Mountain Goat Coffee Company

Mountain Pose Yoga

Mountain Valley Real Estate

Sweet Dirt Farm

White Pass Ski Area

White Pass Sports Hut

Packwood Community Organizations:

Destination Packwood

Discover Lewis County

High Valley Country Club HOA

Packwood Business Owners’ Committee

Packwood Improvement Club

Interest Groups:

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Washington Trails Association

**PROGRESS & EVENTS**

**Timeline & Progress Updates**

November 11, 2017 - State Nonprofit Status

December 28, 2017 - Open House/meet and Greet

January 5, 2018 - Parking area construction estimates

January 22, 2018 - Initial Meeting and site visit with WTA

January 25, 2018 - first annual board meeting, appointment of new board members/election of officers

February 10, 2018 - Meeting/Site Visit with EMBA

February 16, 2018 - informal and initial meeting with IMBA

October 2017 through April 2018 - 15+ trail scouting missions / 80+ hours work on GIS

**Public Updates**

(embed blog posts containing public updates?) <http://packwoodtrailproject.blogspot.com/>

**Upcoming Events**

(Place hold for advertising meetings and local events of interest. Calendar is not necessary with few events anticipated. List format would be prefered )

**GET INVOLVED**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

This is a volunteer effort. If you would like to be involved or participate on a committee please let us know, there may be a place for you. Additionally we have specific needs:

* CPA or someone with significant professional experience in accounting
* Designers with graphics, web, and/or printing skills
* Grant writers
* Non-Profit Administration experience
* Physical supply resources include an overhead projector

**Interest Survey**

Have you taken the PTP interest survey? We want to hear from you! Community feedback is extremely important to us and is helpful during this stage of planning. Thank you and please share!

[https://sites.google.com/…/packwoodtrailpro…/interest-survey](https://sites.google.com/site/packwoodtrailproject/interest-survey)

(Refer to Stefan to embed interest survey and maintain link to current google spreadsheet)

**Contact**

Email: [packwoodtrailprject@gmail.com](mailto:packwoodtrailprject@gmail.com)

PO BOX

Follow us on Facebook @packwoodtrailproject

**Donate**

(Paypal account to come after 501c3 status is acquired)