



# WENATCHEE FOOTHILLS TRAILS PLAN

## For City of Wenatchee

### Comprehensive Plan Development

#### FOREWORD

This document is a concept plan for the design, implementation and management of a public non-motorized trail system in Wenatchee’s western foothills (hereinafter the Wenatchee Foothills Trail or “WFT”). The plan notes the presence of numerous pre-existing access points and trails, developed over decades of public recreational use of these lands. These access points and trails are located both on public and private lands.



This plan urges the citizens and government entities of the Wenatchee Valley to cooperate in formalizing legal public rights of way for non-motorized recreational use of the foothills. This planning must be done before residential development in western Wenatchee precludes the possibility of improving the existing informal trail system.

The plan encompasses areas around Saddlerock, Number Two Canyon, Castlerock, Number One Canyon, and the Sage Hills. It discusses connections with federally-owned public lands to the west, and

to the City of Wenatchee’s urban infrastructure, including bicycle and pedestrian routes, schools, neighborhoods, parks, and the Columbia River waterfront.

Since January 2003, the Wenatchee Valley Trails Coalition and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust have been developing the concept of the Wenatchee Foothills Trail.



Through the course of this work we have sought input from private landowners and trail users, discussed trail use issues with public officials, conducted trail improvement and habitat improvement projects, and posted signs with trail use rules and regulations. We have learned a lot about the foothills, and the local perception of the foothills.

Current trail-related problems include: lack of public understanding of proper trail use etiquette; existing “bootleg” trails that are unsustainable, erosion prone and dangerous; unauthorized trail building on both public and private lands; trespass; and parking problems at access points. These problems threaten to jeopardize public trail access because landowners adjacent to trail routes and trail access points feel that some trail users do not respect private property rights. Other landowners fear exposure to legal liability by allowing public use of trails on their land. Additionally, public land management priorities have never been reconciled among the various agencies that own land in the Wenatchee foothills.

The primary objective of Wenatchee Foothills Trail concept plan is that the public is able to enjoy protected open space and recreational opportunities in Wenatchee’s western foothills

forever. Creation of a formal, regulated community trail system with posted rules and a funded management plan could alleviate these problems and ensure that the trails of Wenatchee’s western foothills remain open to the public in perpetuity. Moreover, public non-motorized trails in the Wenatchee foothills could generate economic growth, serve as a natural classroom for people to learn about the ecology and heritage of the Wenatchee Valley, and help to preserve wildlife habitat along the urban-wildland interface. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust realizes that in order to preserve and improve public access to foothills trails, the time has come to draft a community trails plan and submit it to a public review process that will, hopefully, result in the adoption of a community trails plan that has the support of the community at-large.



**PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS**

**History**

For nearly 60 years there has been talk of turning the area around Saddlerock into a park with hiking and bridle trails. In the 1940s an effort to turn Saddlerock into a state park never came to fruition. Some years later prominent Wenatchee citizen and former Lieutenant Governor John Gellatly said that the creation of a Saddlerock state park was one of his fondest dreams. This led to the formation in 1963 of the Saddlerock Area Development Committee to carry out Gellatly’s deathbed wish that the scenic point be preserved as an outlook for future

generations to enjoy. For the next four years the group tried to reach an agreement with the State Department of Natural Resources and with local citizens who owned the mineral rights in the area. The effort was unsuccessful and by June of 1967 the plans for the park were dead.

**City of Wenatchee Comprehensive Plan Process:** In 1999-2000, the city of Wenatchee and the Douglas County Parks and Recreation District embarked upon a review of the Wenatchee Urban Area’s parks and recreation program. The review included an inventory of existing facilities, community input (open houses, user surveys, and telephone surveys), and the development of goals, policies, implementation strategies, and a financing mechanism. The document was adopted as a part of the city’s overall Comprehensive Plan in 2002. This planning process laid the groundwork for the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and Wenatchee Valley Trails Coalition to work towards and publicly advocate for the Wenatchee Foothills Trail. The City’s Comprehensive Plan will be updated in 2007.



**Chelan-Douglas Land Trust**

By December 2002, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust had acquired two parcels of land in the foothills (about 70 acres total), and was an outspoken advocate for the creation of a formal community trails system. In response to landowner concerns about public use of foothills lands, the Land Trust organized a public meeting in December 2002. Land Trust staff facilitated the meeting, and the result was formation of a trails advisory group that adopted the name “Wenatchee Valley Trails Coalition”. In 2006 the Trails Coalition was reformed as the Wenatchee Valley Trails Committee under the board of directors of the Land Trust. The Land Trust devotes significant staff, financial, and volunteer resources to the Wenatchee

Foothills Trail Project. Activities include organizing hikes, bird watching and trail workdays in the foothills.



**Wenatchee Valley Trails Committee** - The Wenatchee Valley Trails Committee (formerly, Wenatchee Valley Trails Coalition before it became a CDLT board-appointed committee) serves as the

planning and public outreach team for the Trails Project. It is comprised of public employees, private landowners, trail users and Land Trust representatives. The Trails committee has also worked closely with foothills landowners to make existing trails in the foothills safer and more sustainable by improving trail tread and drainage on foothills trails.

### **National Park Service Assistance**

In the fall of 2003, the Land Trust and the Trails Coalition applied for and received a grant of technical assistance from the Rivers Trails and Conservation



Assistance (RTCA) program of the National Park Service's Seattle office. With RTCA assistance, the Land Trust and Trails Coalition planned and conducted a series of public outreach events in 2004 and 2005, culminating with the Wenatchee Trail Connections Design Charrette in June 2005.

### **Wenatchee Trail Connections Design Charrette**

Many of the graphic designs and illustrations of trailheads and trail access points you see in this plan were generated in an intensive design workshop, or *charrette*, held June 24-26, 2005. The charrette partnered landscape architects, community planners, artists and the professional

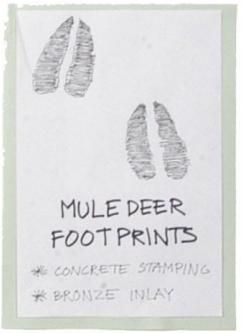
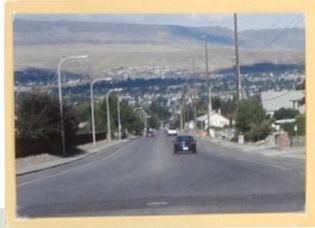
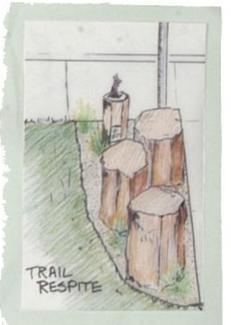
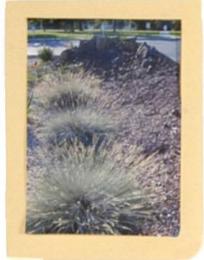


community with members of the Trails Coalition. Results included concept plans for scaling trailheads to accommodate three different types of site (small, medium, and large), as well as ideas for incorporating the foothills trails into the larger community by drawing on Wenatchee's unique setting and agricultural heritage. The results of the charrette were presented at a community open house on June 26, 2005.

### **Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) grant application by City of Wenatchee**

In 2006 the City of Wenatchee with assistance from staff of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and members of the Wenatchee Valley Trails Committee applied for a grant from the IAC to construct medium-amenity trailheads at Day Drive and Horselake Road, on the CDLT land acquisition of the Burts and Wallace properties. The application also includes the construction of three miles of new trail to link the Sage Hills Trail to the south with Horselake Road. Pending approval by the Washington State Legislature, work on this project will likely begin in Fall 2007.

# ENVISION: RIVER TO RIDGES



## **NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES IN THE WENATCHEE FOOTHILLS**

### **Ecology**

The Wenatchee foothills area is situated between Eastern Washington's arid shrub-steppe desert and the wetter pine/fir forests of the eastern Cascade Mountains. Plant and animal species from both ecosystems share this area, creating a unique ecosystem.

Flowers such as balsam root, lupine, and yarrow characterize plant communities. Springtime brings impressive displays of these plants. Common shrub sized plants include sagebrush and bitterbrush. The higher elevations have scattered stands of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, mixed with thickets of Douglas maple and bitter cherry.

Meadowlark, quail, and hawks are among the numerous birds living amid the flora. A number of snakes and lizards can also be found. Coyotes are frequently seen as well as heard. During the winter large herds of mule deer use the area as winter range. Elk, turkeys, and cougars are occasionally seen in the area.

### **Geology**

The Wenatchee foothills area is at the eastern edge of the Cascade Uplift and actually marks the division between the Uplift and the basalt lava flows of the Columbia basin. Clay deposits left by Ice Age lakes cover large areas of the foothills. The majority of the area is made up of sandstone rock of the Swauk formation. Perforating the base sandstone are several areas of volcanic intrusion and highly eroded necks of ancient, extinct volcanoes (Castle Rock and Saddle Rock are the best examples). In conjunction with these intrusions is an area known as the Wenatchee Gold Belt. The intruding molten rock caused concentrations of valuable minerals along the

margins of the intrusions. These areas have been the scene of much commercial mining activity.

### **Weed Control**

The primary stewardship challenge of public access in the foothills is to control the spread of invasive weeds. Diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), and Whitetop (*Cardaria draba*) are prevalent in the Wenatchee foothills and can overtake native plant communities if left unchecked. Human use of the foothills for recreation has the potential to increase the spread of weeds along trail corridors, and beyond. An integrated weed management plan should be created for the Wenatchee Foothills Trail project area. In addition, trailhead kiosks can serve to educate the public about invasive weeds and weed control in the foothills.

## **TRAIL ACCESS POINTS AND TRAILHEADS**

Three amenity levels for trailheads were conceived in the Wenatchee Trail Connections Design Charrette. On-street parking and a simple opening in a fence to provide access to a trail characterize a low amenity

trailhead. Access would be informal, or via easements through private property. Such a trailhead is appropriate for incorporating trail access into existing neighborhoods where heavy use is not expected.



Low Amenity Trailhead



Decades of heavy public use of the Saddlerock area has resulted in a variety of trails crossing the area's private and public lands. Consolidating trails, improving drainage and erosion problems, securing public rights of way and access points, connecting main routes, and closing superfluous trails are necessary to improve this area for safe and sustainable public recreation.

In 2005, the City of Wenatchee entered into discussions with DNR about purchasing the Saddlerock property, and transfer of title to the City would facilitate improvement of Saddlerock for public recreation. With the exception of the Circle Street access on the south, trails to the top of Saddlerock require crossing property that is currently in private ownership.

Moreover, the old Cannon Mine property south of Saddlerock has been reclaimed, and the current owner, is in negotiations with Appleatchee Riders and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust to explore transferring title to Appleatchee Riders, who would work with the CDLT to open the property to public recreational use.

### **SADDLEROCK TRAILS ACCESS**

**Access from Circle Street:** At the end of Circle Street there is a low amenity trailhead that provides access to Saddlerock trails. There is unofficial parking for 6-10 vehicles here. Appleatchee Riders, Wenatchee Mining Partnership, Conoco-Phillips, and the Wenatchee School District own neighboring properties.

There may be potential for development of a large, high amenity trailhead at this site. As conceptualized in the design charrette, as much as five acres of the property could be set aside for development of a trailhead with an archway, parking,

bathrooms, informational and interpretive signage, benches and picnic shelters.

**Access from South Hills Drive:** There are a number of small trail access points along South Hills Drive that provide access to the myriad trails on the undeveloped private lands east of Saddlerock. All access from South Hills Drive currently impacts private lands, and is dependent upon acquiescence of private landowners. The community should explore the possibility of obtaining a public trail access right of way in at least one of these traditional trail access points. Suggest low-amenity trail access only.

**Access from Skyline Drive at Jacobson Preserve:** The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust's Jacobson Preserve trails are open to the public and accessible from Skyline Drive. Parking is available along the west side of Skyline Drive between Number Two Canyon Road and the Jacobson Preserve. Parking is also available, through an agreement with the Wenatchee Racquet and Athletic Club (WRAC), along the northern side of the WRAC parking lot. Trails lead from the Jacobson Preserve, across private land, to the Saddlerock property. This is a low-amenity trailhead.

**Access from No. 2 Canyon Road to Jacobsen Preserve:** The CDLT has discussed with the property owners the potential to establish a low amenity trailhead with parking along No. 2 Canyon Road. A portion of the trail and the parking area are on property currently owned by Roger Volkman. The trail will extend eastward on the Volkman property, across the southern edge of the WRAC property. It will connect to the current Jacobsen trailhead across a short intervening section of Skyline Drive.

## **SADDLEROCK TRAIL ROUTES**

**Southern Route Description:** From the end of Circle Street the main route follows an old jeep road to the top of Saddlerock. The existing route is steep, rutted by erosion, and very compacted. A new trail should be constructed to ensure sustainability and public safety. The new trail should meander more in order to make it safer, more sustainable, and more accessible for all levels of hikers and bikers. There are also numerous small trails diverging from the main route that need to be assessed for closure or improvement. Significant trailbed improvement and route consolidation is needed on the south side of Saddlerock

**Northern Route Description:** Access from Skyline Drive at the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust's Jacobson Preserve property. The CDLT has developed and maintains separate trails on its property for hiking and biking. At the southwest corner of CDLT property the trail enters private property for about 0.5 mile before entering the public lands of the Saddlerock parcel. The public heavily uses this route although there is no legal agreement granting public access across the private land. Securing legal public right of way across the private property is necessary. Once public right of way is secured, trailbed improvements and some trail re-routing between the Jacobson Preserve and the top of Saddlerock will be required.

**Saddlerock East:** A confusing array of informal trails crisscross the land east of Saddlerock, between South Hills Drive and Saddlerock. This land is mostly undeveloped shrub-steppe habitat. Though the sheer rock of the eastern face of Saddlerock prevents access straight to the top, at least one trail ascends diagonally south to north and provides access to the top. It appears that most of the diagonal trail is on the publicly owned Saddlerock property. The lower trails appear to be mostly on undeveloped privately owned property.

Ideally, acquisition of the large parcels of undeveloped, privately owned property between the City of Wenatchee and Saddlerock would allow for trail system improvement in this area. However, if such a measure is not feasible, a Chelan Public Utility District (PUD) transmission line easement across these properties provides potential to create a trail loop system. Chelan PUD's easement does not allow placement of structures within the 100' wide easement. Given that the landowners are restricted from building within the easement, there may be an opportunity to negotiate a trail easement with the landowners. This would provide an opportunity to consolidate these myriad trails into one single route within the PUD easement corridor (thus creating a trail loop around Saddlerock). PUD's safety and security concerns would, of course, have to be addressed.

## **THE CASTLEROCK AREA**

Castlerock is another distinct rock outcropping on the western edge of the City of Wenatchee. Like Saddlerock, Castlerock has long been a landmark and hiking destination for the community.

Castlerock is privately owned. However, the current owners (Frank Peryea and Betsy Beers-Peryea) purchased the Castlerock parcel and the adjacent property to the west, in order to preserve the land as open space and maintain it as a community asset. The two properties total nearly 400 acres of open space and habitat, and connect to vast expanses of public land to the west. According to the owner's wishes, public recreational use of the property will be limited to foot traffic only (no biking or equestrian use).



Decades of unfettered public use resulted in a variety of trails crossing the private lands around Castlerock and ascending the rock itself. However, recent residential development around Castlerock has obliterated many of these trails and restricted ways to access the property. Recent discussions with the landowner offer some promise that access can be reestablished.

### **CASTLEROCK TRAILS ACCESS**

**Access from Castlerock Ave:** At the end of Castlerock Avenue, Chelan PUD owns a substation property. West of the substation, between the substation and the Castlerock parcel, is an approximately 35 acre privately owned property slated for development. A PUD transmission line traverses the privately owned property from the southeast corner to the northwest corner. Given that the landowners are restricted from building within the transmission line easement, there may be an opportunity to negotiate a low or medium-amenity trailhead with the PUD and a trail easement with the landowners. This would facilitate access to the primary Castlerock trail.

### **CASTLEROCK TRAIL ROUTES**

A loop trail around the Castlerock feature exists in partial form currently. The landowners endorse this loop concept. A trail continues up the ridge on the west side and could be extended to USFS property.

### **THE SAGE HILLS AREA**

The Sage Hills is an area of broad, rolling hills between Number One Canyon Road and Horse Lake Road. There are significant parcels of public land in the Sage Hills, but access to that land is mostly across private land. The main Sage Hills

Trail is more gradual than most trails in other parts of the foothills, though the Sage Hills offers steep, technical trails as well. This area is known for its brilliant displays of spring wildflowers.

The Chelan Douglas Land Trust purchased approximately 1,500 acres along upper Horse Lake Road (the Horse Lake Ranches). Extension of the Sage Hills trail to this area is discussed below.

### **SAGE HILLS TRAILS ACCESS**

#### **Access from Number One Canyon/Sage Hills Drive (Lester)**

At the end of the Sage Hills Drive cul de sac, a sign welcomes trail users to Lester's Trail.

For many years the Lester family has allowed public use of their land and trail. In 2005 the County placed "No Parking" signs at the end of Sage Hills Drive to alleviate parking congestion problems caused by trail users, and offered a small county-owned turnout along Number One Canyon road as a parking alternative. At this time the Lester's continue to allow public access to the trail, but do not want a trailhead at the end of Sage Hills Drive. Suggest maintaining this as a low-amenity trail access in cooperation with the Lester family.



#### **Access from CDLT Sage Hills Property**

Near the end of Day Drive, the Chelan Douglas Land Trust holds a sixty-foot wide public ingress and egress easement for access to its Sage Hills property. The CDLT negotiated the public access easement as part of the Sage Hills Property

acquisition, and to preserve a public access to the trail in the event that the Lester family decides to close the Lester Trail.

The easement provides enough space to create a medium-amenity trailhead with limited parking, information kiosk, and vegetative screening. A pending IAC grant would fund construction beginning in late 2007.

### **Access from Broadview Neighborhood**

Currently there is a trail access point at the end of Maiden Lane, amidst the continuing construction and build out of that neighborhood. This provides access to a trail on adjacent private property (Clennon property), then the Chelan PUD's Home Water Property trails and the rest of the Sage Hills trails. An agreement between the previous owners of the Broadview land (the Shipman family) and the developer (Ron Andre) supposedly obligates Andre to providing a trail access point from Broadview. Andre has since sold to Calvin White. However, prior to investing effort into development of a Broadview trail access point, a public right of way should be obtained across the Clennon land. A small, low-amenity trailhead would be appropriate if located on the edge of the Broadview neighborhood. Research should be done to ascertain whether acquisition of undeveloped land west of Broadview could support a larger trailhead.

### **Access from former Burts Property along Horse Lake Road**

The CDLT acquired the Burts and Wallace Ranches in June 2006. The Burts parcel crossing Horse Lake Road is included in the IAC grant proposal (May 2006) for a medium amenity trailhead on the north side of the road, with a trail to be built across the property to the south to connect to the north end of the Sage Hills Trail in the Chelan PUD segment. A short trail from the trailhead will extend north to an overlook above the Wenatchee River. As of June 2006, maintenance of this trailhead will be the responsibility of the CDLT.

## **SAGE HILLS TRAIL ROUTES**

### **The Sage Hills Trail- Lester Segment**

Although the Lester family has declined granting the public a permanent legal right to use the Lester Trail, this is a popular and well-known segment of the Sage Hills Trail, and the Lester family continues to allow public use of the trail. This section would benefit from some trailbed improvements (some have been done by volunteer trail crews organized by CDLT) and weed control.

### **The Sage Hills Trail – CDLT Segment**

The Land Trust acquired this 35-acre property to save it for open space, wildlife habitat and non-motorized recreation.

### **The Sage Hills Trail – Chelan PUD Segment**

The keystone property for the Sage Hills Trail is the Chelan PUD's 970-acre Home Water Property. The property is managed for wildlife (mule deer winter range) habitat, and tied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's environmental mitigation requirements for the Rock Island Dam license, which expires in 2028. Building of a new reservoir in 2005 necessitated moving a section of trail. In 2005 Chelan PUD wrote a management plan that factors in public recreational use of the property. CDLT has partnered with Chelan PUD to educate the public about use of trails on this property.

### **The Sage Hills Trail – Broadview Spur:**

A well-used segment of the Sage Hills Trail begins at the end of Maiden Lane in the Broadview development. No formal, permanent right of way has been established. Current ownership at Maiden Lane is by developer Calvin White, with an intervening property owned by Bart Clennon until reaching the eastern boundary of the Chelan PUD property. Mr. White has indicated to a Land Trust board member that access to the trail will not be blocked, such as by a cul de sac, but no public

parking area is planned either. Property development is still underway in this area.

The Sage Hills Trail – Coyote Canyon Segment:

As referred to in this document, the Sage Hills Trail is the main artery across the Sage Hills, from Sage Hills Drive, across the Lester property, the CDLT property, and to the junction known as “five points” on Chelan PUD property. From this point the main trail generally follows the power lines, drops into a canyon to the north and ends on a ridge not far from the former Burts property to the north, with a small intervening canyon in between.



Horse Lake Road Ranches

In cooperation with the Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association, the Land Trust acquired the adjoining 837-acre Burts Ranch and the 720-acre Horse Lake Ranch in the foothills west of Wenatchee in June 2006. These ranches lie on the north and east sides of Horse Lake Mountain and are highly visible and easily accessible from Wenatchee.

Following the acquisition of the properties, the Land Trust put them up for sale through the Conservation Buyer Program, while retaining the eastern-most Burts and a portion of the adjacent Wallace section as an easement for a trail beginning at Horse Lake Road and connecting to the PUD property existing trail to the south. A medium amenity trailhead, situated on the north side of Horse Lake Road will provide access to the trail. The IAC grant provides for construction of a short spur trail

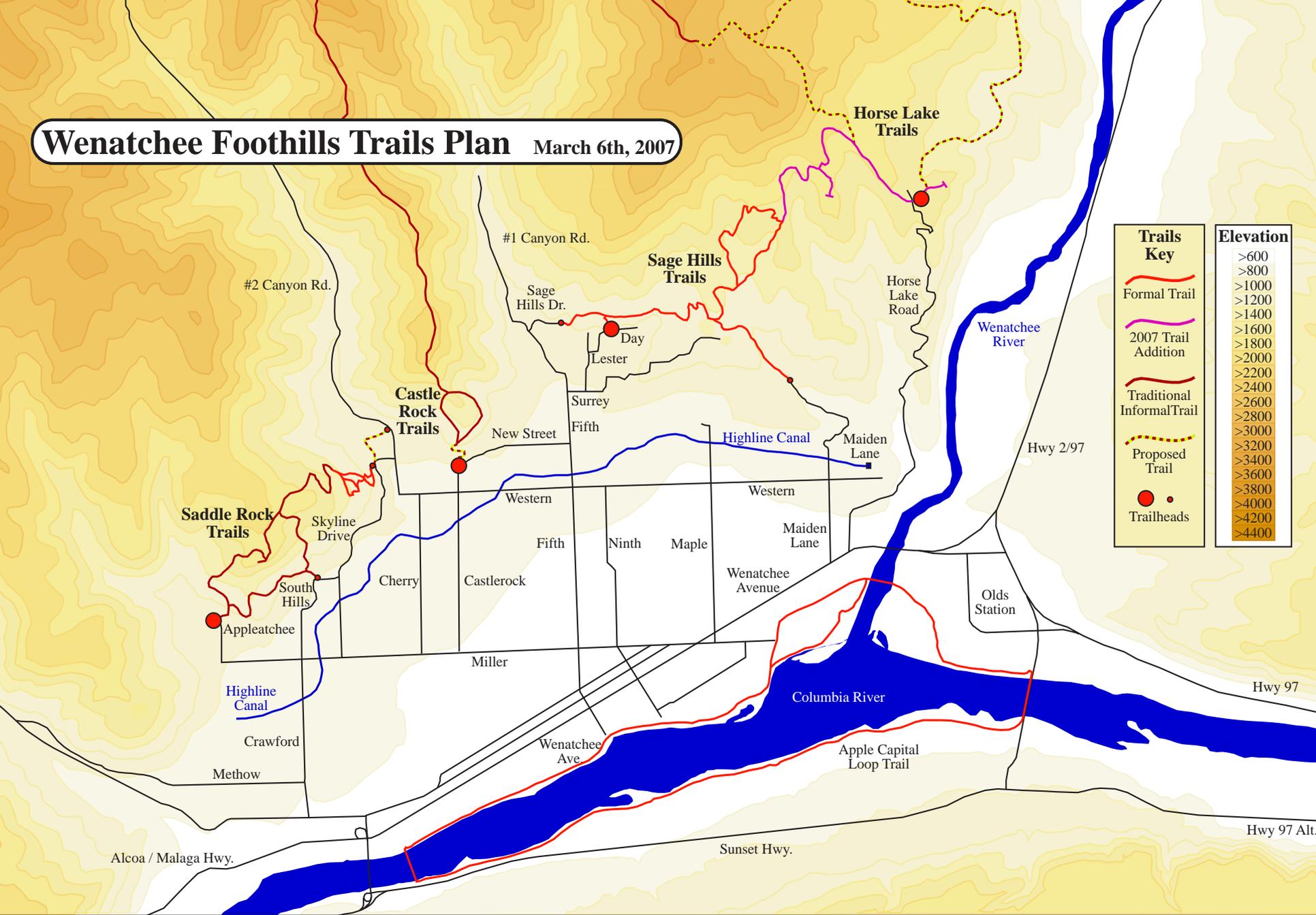
north from the parking lot to provide an overlook of the Wenatchee River and lands to the north. Across Horse Lake Road, a 3 mile trail segment will link to the northernmost segment of the existing Sage Hills Trail, with some rerouting of the latter for greater safety and sustainability. The trail will also include an overlook facing the east (Columbia River) and a bridge through the steep canyon.

While both properties have significant habitat value on their own, the conservation value of both is significantly greater than the value of each property separately. Protection of both ownerships, along with adjacent protected properties, will create contiguous protected ownership of more than 3000 acres (970 acres Chelan County PUD, 837 acres Burts Ranch, 720 acres Horse Lake Ranch, 320 acres Bureau of Land Management, 160 acres Washington State Department of Natural Resources, 32 acres Chelan-Douglas Land Trust).

**SEASONAL CLOSURES**

The Chelan PUD maintains a voluntary seasonal use closure of its Sage Hills Home Water Property for mule deer winter range. The Land Trust seeks to support this policy by posting advisory signage, and removing trail maps during the closure period (generally from December 1 to March 1). The Land Trust intends to observe the same closure on the trail to be constructed from Horse Lake Road to the PUD property. The future trailhead parking on Horse Lake Road would be gated during this period of the year.

# Wenatchee Foothills Trails Plan March 6th, 2007



Trails Key	
	Formal Trail
	2007 Trail Addition
	Traditional Informal Trail
	Proposed Trail
	Trailheads

Elevation	
>600	
>800	
>1000	
>1200	
>1400	
>1600	
>1800	
>2000	
>2200	
>2400	
>2600	
>2800	
>3000	
>3200	
>3400	
>3600	
>3800	
>4000	
>4200	
>4400	

# Wenatchee Foothills Trails Plan

to Twin Peak and Mission Creek Trails

to Twin Peak and Mission Creek Trails

The proposed Castlerock Trail is privately owned by CDLT members who support public trails. Only a public trailhead is required.

**Ownership**

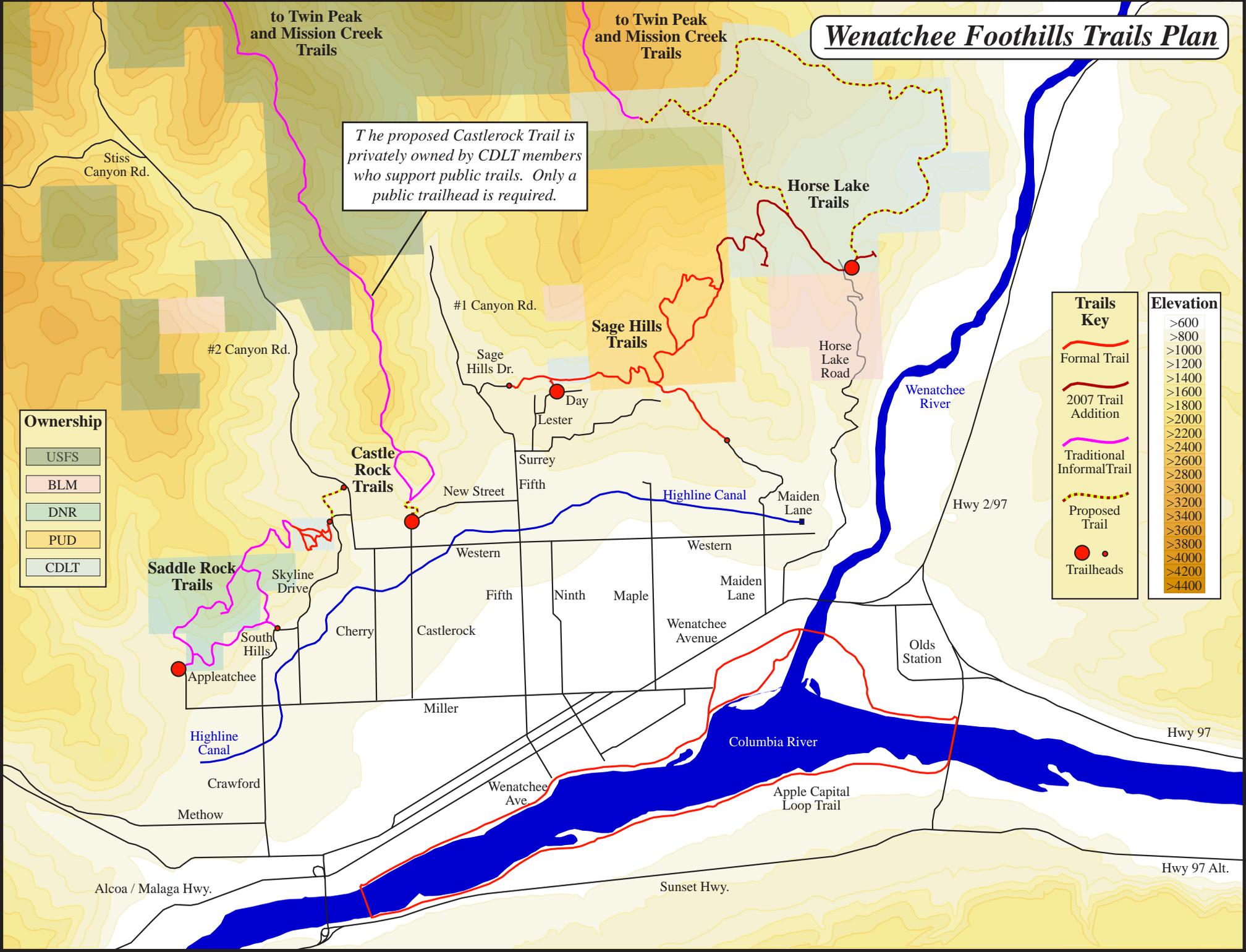
- USFS
- BLM
- DNR
- PUD
- CDLT

**Trails Key**

- Formal Trail
- 2007 Trail Addition
- Traditional Informal Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Trailheads

**Elevation**

- >600
- >800
- >1000
- >1200
- >1400
- >1600
- >1800
- >2000
- >2200
- >2400
- >2600
- >2800
- >3000
- >3200
- >3400
- >3600
- >3800
- >4000
- >4200
- >4400



Stiss Canyon Rd.

#2 Canyon Rd.

#1 Canyon Rd.

Sage Hills Dr.

Day  
Lester

Surrey  
Fifth

New Street

Highline Canal

Maiden Lane

Hwy 2/97

Saddle Rock Trails

Skyline Drive

Appleatchee

South Hills

Cherry

Castlerock

Fifth

Ninth

Maple

Maiden Lane

Wenatchee Avenue

Olds Station

Hwy 97

Highline Canal

Crawford

Methow

Wenatchee Ave

Miller

Columbia River

Apple Capital Loop Trail

Alcoa / Malaga Hwy.

Sunset Hwy.

Hwy 97 Alt.

Horse Lake Trails

Horse Lake Road

Wenatchee River

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Where will the trails be located?**

The Wenatchee Foothills Trails Plan encompasses the area between Circle Street in south Wenatchee to Horse Lake Road in the north, and from the City of Wenatchee on the east to the Wenatchee National Forest on the west. It includes some of the lands around Saddlerock, Number Two Canyon, Castlerock, Number One Canyon, and the Sage Hills. Property owners include private individuals, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, and several public agencies (Washington State DNR, Chelan County PUD, US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service).

### **Don't we already have trails? Why do we need a Wenatchee Foothills Trail project?**

Many of the existing trails are "bootleg" trails. The trails were not professionally designed or planned, many suffer from dangerous rutting and erosion, and some routes are objectionable to the landowners. As the population of the Wenatchee Valley grows, the trails are getting heavier public use, and deteriorating more rapidly. Moreover, preserving trail access is becoming more important as the City of Wenatchee grows westward, and open space is being lost. Trails provide public health benefits, educational opportunities, and economic growth opportunities in the communities where they are located. By working with community partners and landowners, we can improve and maintain the trail system to better serve the community, alleviate the concerns of landowners and neighbors, and preserve the trails as a community resource forever.

### **Who Can Use the Trails?**

The trails will be open to all non-motorized travel. This includes, but is not limited to, bicycling, walking, jogging, and horseback riding. However, not every trail will be open to all

modes of travel because there is a need to separate some trail uses from others (e.g. – mountain biking and equestrian use).

### **Who is paying for these trails?**

Major funding for the implementation of the Trails Plan is contingent upon award of grant funding. The Washington



State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) is a state agency that grants public financing for recreation and conservation projects throughout Washington State. IAC funds are available to communities that demonstrate broad support for compelling parks and recreation type projects. Other grant funding opportunities will also be explored.

### **Who will maintain the trails once they are built?**

This is not completely decided. One management model is a partnership between public agencies, landowners, and a non-profit trail management organization. A funding source for long-term operations and maintenance costs must be determined as well. The trail planning process will help answer these questions.

### **When Will the Trails Be Built?**

Fortunately many of the trails already exist. The implementation of the Trails Plan will be done in phases based on grant funding and securing necessary public rights of way. The bulk of the work will be done over the next six years, between 2006 and 2012.