

# **Opal Creek Advisory Council**

## Trails Subcommittee

### Recommendations for new trails

8/2/06

The trails subcommittee of the Opal Creek Advisory Council consists of three current members of the council and one alumni. These include Keith Kernan, Mia Mohr and Brian Windrope as current members, and Lee Slattum as an alumni whose active involvement with the Chemeketans makes him a valuable member. This group met on July 26<sup>th</sup> to consider the question of trails in both the Opal Creek SRA as well as the adjacent Wilderness area.

The outcome of this meeting is the following list of recommended new trails. The subcommittee is well aware of past work on this topic and of persistent limitations in funding expressed by the Forest Service. Nevertheless, we believe it is the role of the council to advise the Forest Service on what we believe is the best possible management of the SRA. This subcommittee believes that the following trails, listed in order of priority, would provide enormous benefit to the recreational users of the Opal Creek area, and would, in particular, provide better experiences for those citizens most invested in the long term preservation and stewardship of the Opal Creek watershed.

1. Shady Cove to Kopetski Bridge-connecting Little North Fork Trail to Opal Creek trail
2. Cedar Flats to Opal Lake
3. Connecting Ogle Mtn. to Henline trails
4. Extending Nasty Rock Trail to Nasty Rock Summit
5. Extending Stony Creek, either up to ridge top or to 2207
6. Upgrading use trail down to a double falls on Henline Creek from Ogle Mtn. Trail

Some of these trails begin, cross, or exist entirely in the Opal Creek Wilderness Area. Although the council does not legally advise the government on this area, it is clearly inseparable in the mind and actions of the public from the SRA, and would benefit greatly from the above mentioned trail improvements.