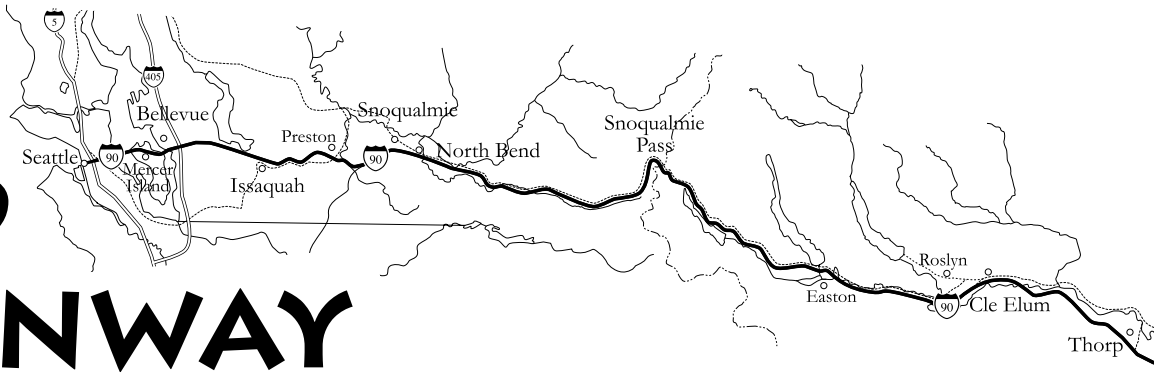
MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY



Linking Forests, Trails, Wildlife and History along I-90 in Washington State

Volume 14, Number 3
July 2007

Greenway Founders Ted Thomsen, left, and Jim Ellis hike up a new trail on Rattlesnake Mountain after a grand opening ceremony on June 2nd. The new trailhead at Snoqualmie Point leads hikers on a 10.9-mile trail to Rattlesnake Lake. See story page 2.

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Major New Trail Added to the Greenway

In the bright morning sunshine, a group of hikers waited in anticipation for the green ribbon to be cut. They were preparing to hike the new Rattlesnake Mountain Trail on June 2nd, National Trails Day.

When Ted Thomsen, one of the early trail-mappers of Rattlesnake Mountain, joined Washington Conservation Corps crew member Addie Candib to cut the ribbon, it not only opened a new 10.9-mile trail in the Greenway, it also celebrated completion of a large trailhead just a half hour's drive from Seattle (I-90 Exit 27). The new trail leads hikers through working and conserved forests, past spectacular views to the north, central and south Cascades and a dramatic finish at the Rattlesnake Ledge trailhead south of exit 32.

"This trail is the culmination of decades of curiosity, exploration and hard physical work," said Bill Chapman, Greenway Trust President. "The Greenway Trust has worked toward this day for 15 years, but we are only the most recent among many people who have worked to make Rattlesnake Mountain a permanent public forest and open it to the boot treads of the people."

Mountain Top the First Step for the Greenway

"The 1993 public purchase of the top of Rattlesnake Mountain was the first successful land conservation project attempted by the newly organized Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust," Chapman said. "It told us that the daunting challenge of keeping the beauty of the Snoqualmie Pass corridor might really be possible."

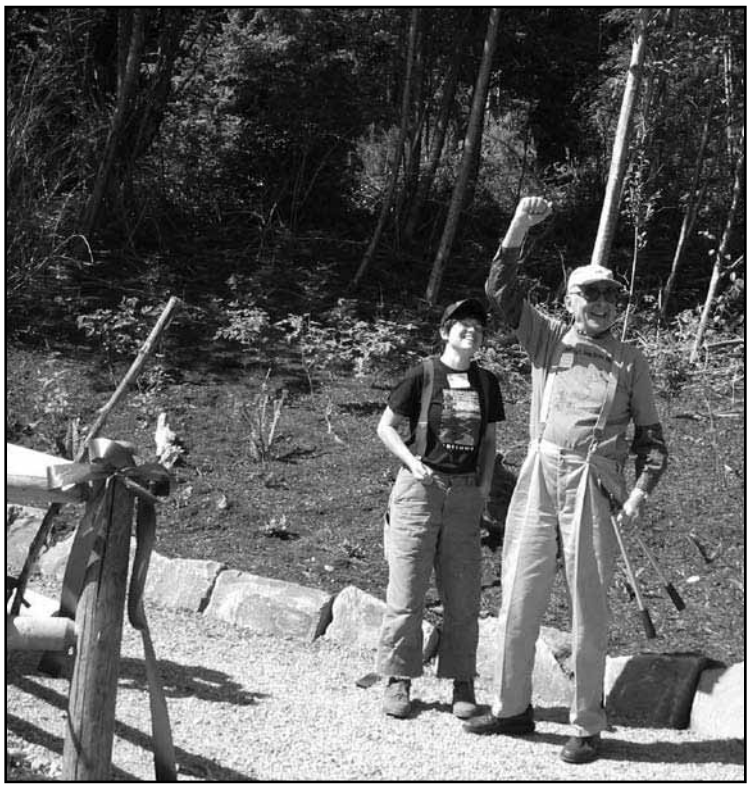
Former Governor Gary Locke joined Chapman at the trail opening. "As a state legislator, Gary helped fund that purchase," Chapman said. "But before the Greenway was born, we must recognize the bushwhacking and trail blazing done by Ted Thomsen, Harvey Manning and other members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club."

Trail Creation Took Years

The Rattlesnake Mountain Trail makes a connection across the mountain that never existed before. Doug Schindler, Greenway Director of Field Programs, coordinated the cross-mountain trail project, beginning in 2003 with the re-building of the Ledge Trail at the eastern end of the mountain.

"It took cross-agency cooperation," Schindler said. "The landowners here are the US Forest Service, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, King County and Seattle Public Utilities."

Mike Stenger of the Greenway staff designed the trail and supervised construction. Much of the work was done by Washington Conservation Corps crews, EarthCorps crews and Washington Trails Association and Greenway Trust volunteers donating thousands of hours to the project. Funders for the different segments included Seattle Public Utilities, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR). The new trailhead was built on US Forest Service land. Funds were allocated to both the trail and trailhead by the 2006 Washington State Legislature. The new trailhead at Exit 27 will be maintained by the WADNR and the City of Snoqualmie Parks Department.



Washington Conservation Corps crew member Addie Candib, left, and Greenway Board Member Ted Thomsen celebrate after cutting a green ribbon to open the new Rattlesnake Mountain Trail on June 2nd. Opening day was dedicated to Thomsen who made some of the first trail maps of the mountain, south of North Bend.

THE GREENWAY VISION CATCHES ON AMONG STATE LEGISLATORS

New projects to conserve land and improve recreation visitor facilities in the Mountains to Sound Greenway have been funded for the second year in a row by the Washington State Legislature. Twenty-four projects submitted by the Greenway Trust and other non-profits, agencies and municipalities now have funding totaling almost $22 million for trails, historic preservation and environmental enhancement projects on and near the scenic corridor.

The Greenway Trust went to Olympia for the first time in 2006 seeking funds for land conservation, trails and parks with a total cost of $15 million. That first try yielded $1.55 million to build the Rattlesnake Mountain trail and trailhead, improve trails on Tiger Mountain and help complete Snoqualmie Point Park. Trust President Bill Chapman has headed the Greenway's legislative campaign.

Some highlights on the 2007 project list include:

- Construction funds for the High Point to Preston trail, a key missing link in the regional Greenway trail network
- Historic railway center improvements east and west of the Cascades, including the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie and the South Cle Elum Substation restoration at the Depot on the John Wayne Pioneer Trail
- Little Si trailhead improvements and connector trail
- Ecological restoration projects at Lake Sammamish State Park and the Snoqualmie River
- A Washington State Horse Park equestrian facility, adjacent to I-90 in Cle Elum
- Open space land acquisitions for streams and wetlands in the Yakima, Teanaway and Middle Fork Snoqualmie watersheds, Taylor Mountain and Issaquah
- Trail improvements for Squak mountain
- The Mercer Slough Interpretive Center

For a complete list of Greenway projects funded by the State, visit www.mtsgreenway.org.

NEWS ALONG THE GREENWAY

A glimpse of the 4th Annual Greenway Days festival along I-90

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The first ever Cowboy Rendezvous attracted large crowds during Greenway Days in Cle Elum.

The weekend celebration on June 23-24 brought celebrations and events in communities along the 100-mile Mountains to Sound Greenway.

For the second year in a row, team RunningShoes.com from Bellingham won the Mountains to Sound Relay, with a finish time of 6 hours, 11 minutes and 47 seconds.

Families enjoyed the Greenway Treasures Trek, produced by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Cowboys enacted "Home on the Range" in Cle Elum. Scavenger hunters traversed 100 miles to gather clues and win prizes. Teams competed for prizes at Greenway Geoteaming, and classic car buffs gathered at a car show in Issaquah.

For event results, visit www.mtsgreenway.org.

Greenway Board Member Wins Prestigious Jefferson Award

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Board Member Mark Boyar was selected as one of five winners of the 2007 Jefferson Award in Washington State. Honoring community volunteers, the Jefferson Awards are sponsored by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Boyar's recognition comes after two decades of work to protect the 110,000-acre Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley, just north of North Bend.

Mark Boyar and daughter Anna, shown here on Iron Peak with Mt. Stuart in the background.

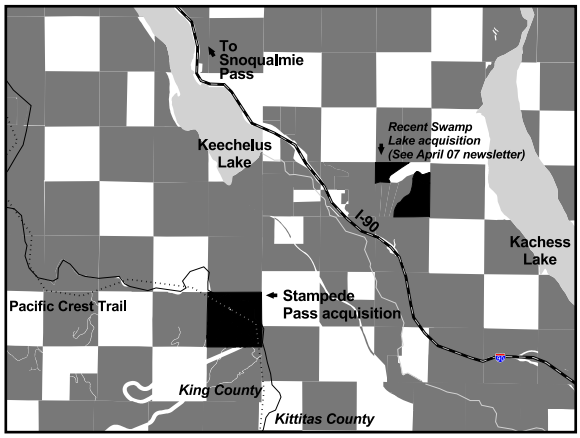
Another patch of "Checkerboard" Joins Public Forest

Stampede Pass, running southwest from Exit 62 on I-90 into the heart of the central Cascades, is an area rich in wildlife habitat, history and recreation opportunities. Like much of the Cascades, it has been marked by a "checkerboard" ownership pattern resulting from railroad land grants in the early 20th century, when the federal government gave lands in alternating square miles along the route to the first railroads pushing into the western United States.

In May, the US Forest Service notched another success in erasing the checkerboard and consolidating the landscape. The Wenatchee National Forest purchased almost all of one of those checkerboard sections at Stampede Pass lying south of Keechelus Lake and bisected by the Pacific Crest Trail.

"The trail at Stampede Pass offers tremendous recreation opportunities including hiking, cross-country skiing and berry picking, all accompanied by some of the most striking views in the Cascades," says Rinee Merritt, Project Manager of The Trust for Public Land, the organization that completed the acquisition. "Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell as well as Representatives Dave Reichert and Norm Dicks were instrumental in protecting Stampede Pass." Funding for the purchase from Plum Creek Timber Company came from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The purchase is part of an ongoing effort by both public and private forest owners to consolidate checkerboard lands for more practical management of wildlife habitat, recreation and forestry. The area around Stampede Pass is home to a number of threatened or endangered species, including grizzly bears, wolves, spotted owls, marbled murrelets, steelhead, wild salmon and bull trout.



PEAKS OF THE GREENWAY SERIES #13

BANDERA MOUNTAIN

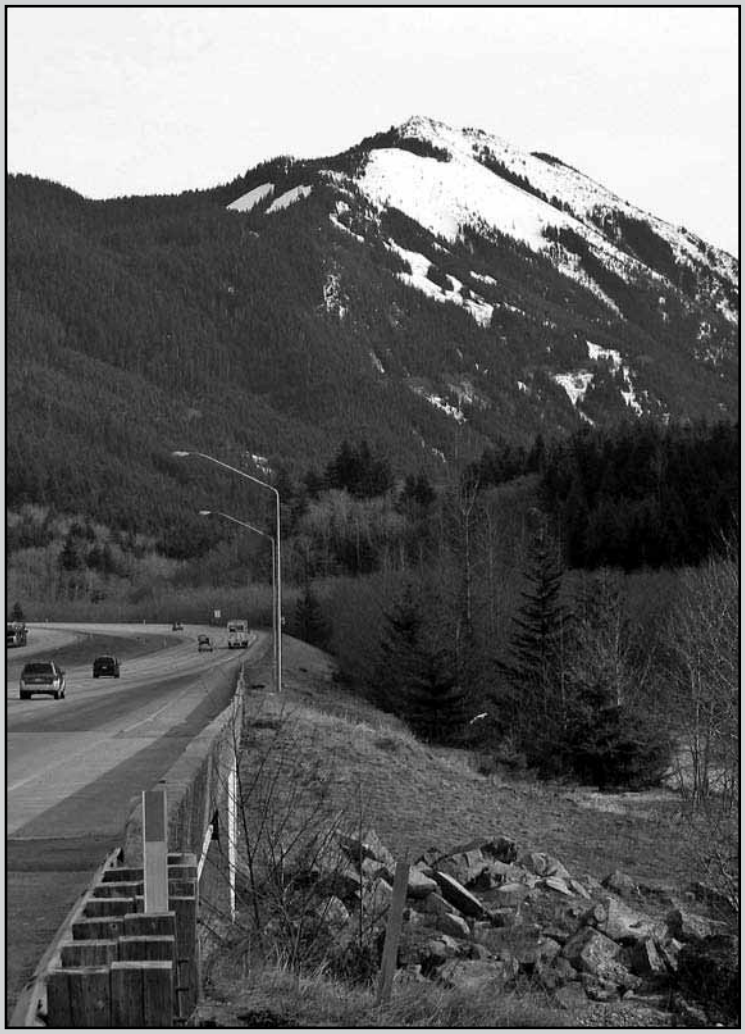


Photo by Larry Hanson

Bandera Mountain rises above Interstate 90 to its snow-capped peak at 5240 feet. Shown here from exit 42, Bandera is located in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest just north of Interstate 90. The summit of Bandera lies along the southern boundary of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Hikers that tackle the 3000-foot elevation gain may be rewarded with views of Mount Washington, Mailbox Peak and Puget Sound to the west, Mt. Rainier to the south and Glacier Peak and Mt. Baker to the north. A new trail leads to Mason Lake and the summit of Bandera Mountain, named the "Ira Spring Trail" after the famed mountaineer and photographer.

THANK YOU

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Gifts received July 2006-June 2007, not including gifts to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Legacy Fund endowment which will be credited in a future newsletter issue.

Volunteers Improve the Greenway

VOLUNTEER EVENTS

All events run from 9 AM - 3 PM. Some events are offered in 3 hour shifts.

Visit www.mtsgreenway.org for the most up-to-date information and to sign up, or call 206.812.0122.

Invasive Plant Removal Projects

Weeds are taking over some of the Greenway's most beautiful natural areas. Come spend a day or just a shift digging up the invaders and making room for beneficial native plants.

Sat, July 7
Issaquah Creek
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (North Bend)

Sat, July 14
Issaquah Creek
Upper Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)

Sat, July 21
Issaquah Creek *Special event for UW and WSU Students and Alumni
Issaquah Creek * Open to the public
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (North Bend)

Sat, July 28
Raging River (Preston)

Sat, Aug 4
Upper Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (North Bend)

Sat, Aug. 11
Upper Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)

Sat, Aug 18
Gardiner Creek (North Bend)

Sat, Aug 25
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (North Bend)
Raging River (Preston)

Sat, Sept. 8
Middle Fork Snoqualmie River (North Bend)
Upper Luther Burbank Park (Mercer Island)

Nursery Project

The seedlings at the Mountains to Sound Nursery in Issaquah are fragile in the hot summer, especially when weeds invade their pots. Come give them a little TLC, a drink and a shot of fertilizer to make sure they are big and strong by the planting season this fall.

Sat, July 7 (Issaquah)

Thank you, volunteers!

Volunteer Group Spotlight: the Gates Foundation

High on Rattlesnake Mountain in May, less than 2 weeks before the opening of the new Rattlesnake Mountain trail, volunteers from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation came out for a work party. Half of the team cut back overgrown branches and trees, and hauled rocks and soil to improve a portion of the trail. Others built six new steps in a steep section of trail to prevent the feet of many hikers from causing erosion. Shown here are Tyler Dittman (front left), Maria Pugliese (back center), Cherrie Tripp (back right) and Alex Erdmann (front right).

Thanks to the following groups that have volunteered this year:

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Seattle Academy
Sierra Club
Skyline High School, Key Club
YVC, Youth Volunteer Corps

Make a Gift that Will Protect the Greenway for Future Generations

With regional population predicted to grow by a million people in the next 20 years, the Mountains to Sound Greenway will need continuing protection. The Greenway Trust offers a variety of ways to help protect this green corridor. One way is to make a gift to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Legacy Fund at the Seattle Foundation. Your endowment gift will help ensure that the landscape will remain a Greenway in perpetuity. Other ways to give include donating appreciated stock, securities or real estate or by simply naming the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust in your will.

For additional information about ways to support the Greenway, contact Wendy Tyner at 206.382.5565 or wendy.tyner@mtsgreenway.org.

Students Seek Solutions

The Greenway environmental education program, "Seeking Solutions," introduces students to forests, fish and sustainability topics for educators in King County. Mountains to Sound Greenway environmental educators visit classrooms and lead students on a field trip to Tiger Mountain. Fifth through eighth grade students are eligible to participate in inquiry-based instruction on biosolids, salmon, soil, water and land use issues.

Sign up at www.mtsgreenway.org, or contact Sally Kentch, 206.524.1665 or education@mtsgreenway.org.

Saghalie Middle School students Alissa Kato, left, and Rachel Heitlauf participate in a "Forests on the Edge" field trip at Tiger Mountain State Forest. As part of this curriculum unit on land use, they evaluated soil, water, trees, human use and wildlife in order to determine the best use of forestland close to the city.

Greenway Trust Adds New Board Members

At the May annual meeting of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, the following people were named as new board members of the organization:

Kurt Fraese, Puget Sound Regional Manager of GeoEngineers in Bellevue; Bill Vlcek, Washington State Department of Transportation; Ken Krivanec, Senior Vice President of Quadrant Homes; Kevin Brown, Director of King County Parks; Steve Sarkozy, City Manager of Bellevue, and Kirk Thompson, Vice President of Environmental Affairs at Boeing.

The board meets five times a year to set policy and direct the activities of the Trust.

Executive Director Search

Long-time Greenway Trust Executive Director Nancy Keith has announced her departure later this year in order to travel overseas to work in a developing country.

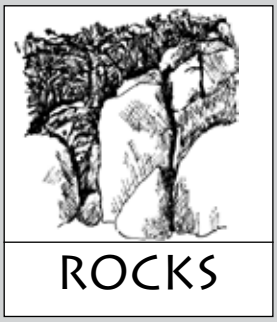
"I can say, with complete objectivity, that this is a wonderful organization. Our mission is to hand on a beautiful and healthy place to future generations and we are accomplishing that through the cooperation of some of the most creative and practical people I've ever known," Keith says.

Visit www.mtsgreenway.org for a job description.

MT. SI AND LITTLE SI: TECTONIC PLATES, A GLACIER AND MELTWATER

Geology of the Greenway Series #7

Eastbound on I-90, just past Exit 27, a traveler gets the first striking view of Mt. Si, standing like a guardian of the "Cascade Front" that stretches from southern Canada to northern California. You'll see this familiar landscape in a new way when you understand that the rock that makes up this mighty mountain took tens of millions of years to come from far across the Pacific Ocean.



Mt. Si stands as an icon of the Mountains to Sound Greenway thanks to the continuous movement of the tectonic plates that make up the earth's solid crust. Massive sections of ocean floor and continents have been moving throughout earth history and are still moving today. Just offshore of Washington and Oregon, oceanic crust is forced down beneath the western margin of North America. Much of the western half of Washington State, including Mt. Si, originated in this way, built up by the addition of rocks over eons of time. Where plates collide, extreme heat and pressure changes the nature of many of these rocks; Mt. Si's igneous and sedimentary rocks were partially metamorphosed by these intense forces.

About 14,000 years ago, the Puget Lobe of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet advanced southward from Canada, filling the entire Puget Lowland and pressing against Mt. Si's west face. From the valley floor the ice probably extended about 2000 feet up the mountain, abrading rocks on Si's western face. Then, along the margin of the Puget Lobe a huge river, collected from all the western valleys of the Cascade Range to the north plus meltwater from the vast glacier itself, flowed southward between the ice and the west face of Si. This huge torrent of water flowing between the glacier and the wall of Si was another powerful sculpting force shaping its west face.

The North Fork of the Snoqualmie River follows the channel of this former ice-marginal river southward along the Cascade Front almost to North Bend. The immense discharge of this river may have opened the gap between Little Si and the main body of the mountain. The easy Little Si trail takes you through the gap that the river followed and past a huge, fresh rockfall off the east face of the mountain, dramatic evidence that geologic activity is still taking place here.

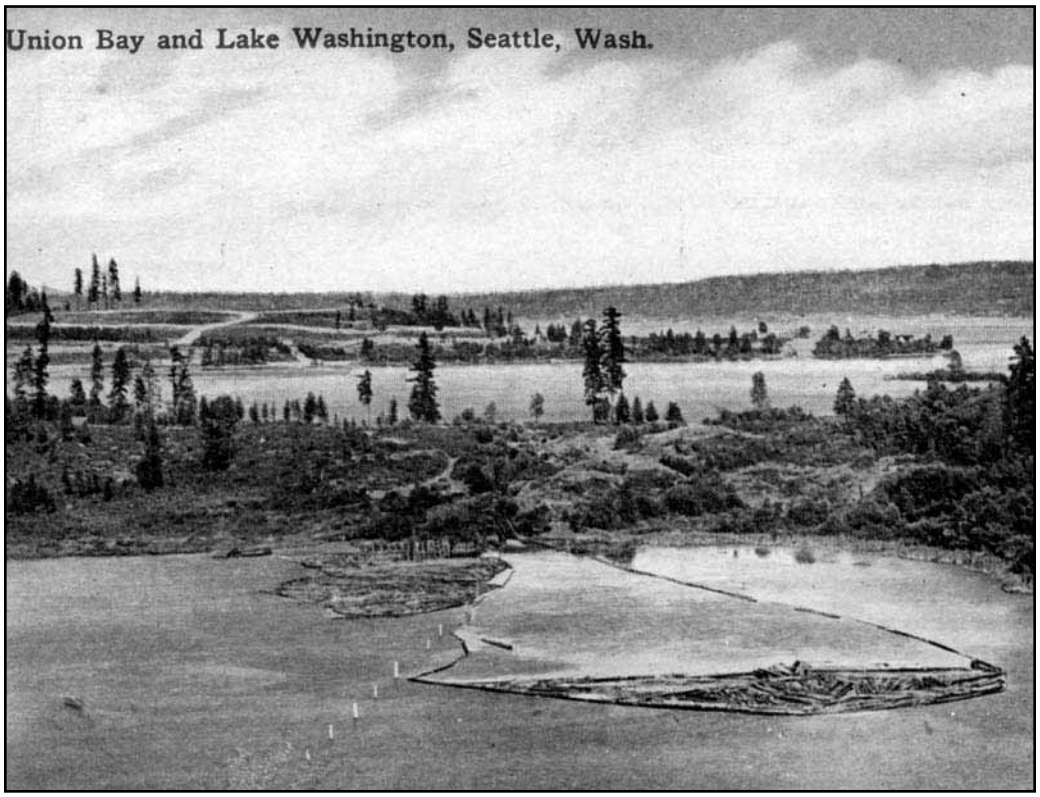
-Bob Carson and Phil Fenner

There's more at http://www.mtsgreenway.org/newsandpublications - Click on "Geology Tour."

New "Greenway Adventures"

The Boeing Company has donated design and printing of a new, revised version of the popular "Greenway Adventures" brochure. This map includes things to see and do along the I-90 corridor, and is available free of charge. Order your copy at www.mtsgreenway.org or email info@mtsgreenway.org or call 206.382.5565.

A LOOK BACK
at the Mountains to Sound Greenway



Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition

100 years ago the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, on the site of the future University of Washington campus (left center where new roads can be seen), was breaking ground for construction of Seattle's 1909 Worlds Fair. Union Bay in the foreground was receiving logs from Portage Bay on Lake Washington down the log chute made by Harvey Pike in 1861. The thin tip of Laurelhurst (right center), once a Duwamish Indian campground, juts into Lake Washington before the lake was lowered 8 feet, 9 inches in October 1916. The hillside in the background is the site of present day Kirkland. The ship canal that now contains the Highway 520 interchange and Montlake Bridge is above the log chute.

Photo from the A.Y.P.E. collection of O.B. Mallott. obmalot@comcast.net

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST

Newsletter Production
Nancy Keith, Amy Brockhaus, Kelly Kirkland
Line Drawings: Nicola Yarbrough

Greenway Trust Officers
Bill Chapman, President
Sally Jewell, Immediate Past President
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Kelly Kirkland, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Mike Stenger, Trail Projects Coordinator
Tor MacIlroy, Restoration Projects Coordinator
William "Ty" Tyler, Stewardship Program Associate
Steve Dettman, Designation Project Associate

Greenway Education Program
Sally Kentch, Environmental Field Educator

Greenway Days Festival
Cynthia Welti, Greenway Days Coordinator

www.mtsgreenway.org

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST MISSION:

Protect and enhance a 100-mile corridor of permanent open space lands along Interstate 90 from Seattle to Central Washington. The Greenway embraces city parks and trails, wildlife habitat, working and protected forests, recreational opportunities in nature, local history, scenic beauty, tourism and educational activities that promote a sustainable balance between population growth and a healthy environment.

MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY TRUST
911 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 523
SEATTLE, WA 98104

PHONE 206.382.5565
VOLUNTEER LINE 206.812.0122
EMAIL: INFO@MTSGREENWAY.ORG

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