



Mountain Bike Heaven

the Klootchey trail system

Words: Gary Henley • Images: Hailey Hoffman

Until recently, the “true mountain bikers” of Clatsop County had limited options on where to ride.

Thanks to a collaborative effort of the North Coast Trail Alliance, GreenWood Resources and the Clatsop County Parks Department, those options have improved dramatically over the last year.

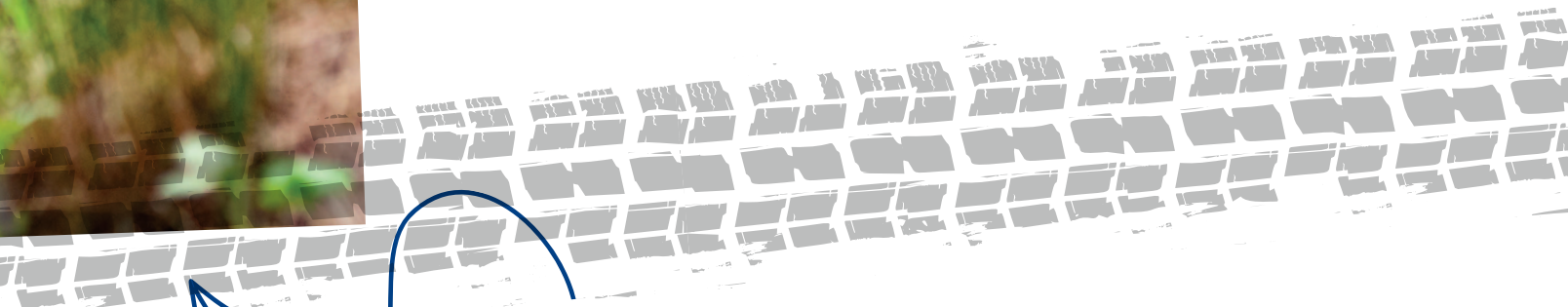
The largest system of mountain biking trails in Clatsop County — and still growing — is the new Klootchey Creek Trails network, located off U.S. Highway 26, two miles east of the Highway 101 junction.

It’s also the county’s only system of trails built specifically for mountain biking.

County commissioners were joined by representatives from GreenWood, the trail alliance and others involved in the project for a chainsaw “ribbon-cutting” that officially opened the trails in July 2019.

“When we had the grand opening, we had 2.7 miles, now we have 7.7 miles,” said Steven Blakesley, president of the Northwest Trails Alliance. The long-term goal is to have 40 miles of networked trails. Volunteer trail-builders put in more than 5,000 hours of work over the first eight months.

The Klootchey trail system has something for every type of mountain biker, from the casual rider to the most serious expert mountain biker.



John Jelous rides the Chris Cross trail at Klootchey Creek.