

MCPA Winter Social 2024

2023 Recap

- Log Crossing Improvements
- Trail Repairs
- Interpretive Sign Installation / Glacier Basin Sign
- Turntable Maintenance
- Dead Tree Removal
- Gate Damage
- Twin Bridges Area Study

Log Crossing Improvements



Trail Repairs



Interpretive Sign Installation



Glacier Basin Sign



Justice/Golden Cord powerhouse as seen from the area of the Rainy mine.



Bunk house and cook house for the mines in Glacier Basin - trail passes right through this area...and you can match the boulders in the picture with present day view

Glacier Basin and Falls ahead!

The washed-out area just ahead of you and to the left is the site of the Justice mine powerhouse. It provided electrical power for the mine buildings and the equipment to power compressed air drills in those mines - which are located above you on the hillside to your right.

The powerhouse was constructed circa 1905 by the Wilmans brothers for their Golden Cord and Justice mines. Water used to operate the powerhouse was piped from Glacier Falls through a tunnel under a rock mass on the right-hand side of the falls, seen in the distance, to the powerhouse. Remnants of that pipe can be seen underfoot and on the trail as you approach the falls.

The powerhouse was later used by the Rainy mine to provide power to a compressed air device to dewater the mine shaft, but was destroyed by fire on August 28, 1913, and never used again. Remnants are below and to the left



The outlet end of the tunnel under the rock mass mentioned



These are the former Pride of the Mountains mine tram structures across valley from trail to Glacier Basin.


Sign funding courtesy Mounts Creek Preservation Association
through generous member donations
Pictures courtesy of Northwest Underground Explorations:
Craig O'Brien and Daryl Jacobson

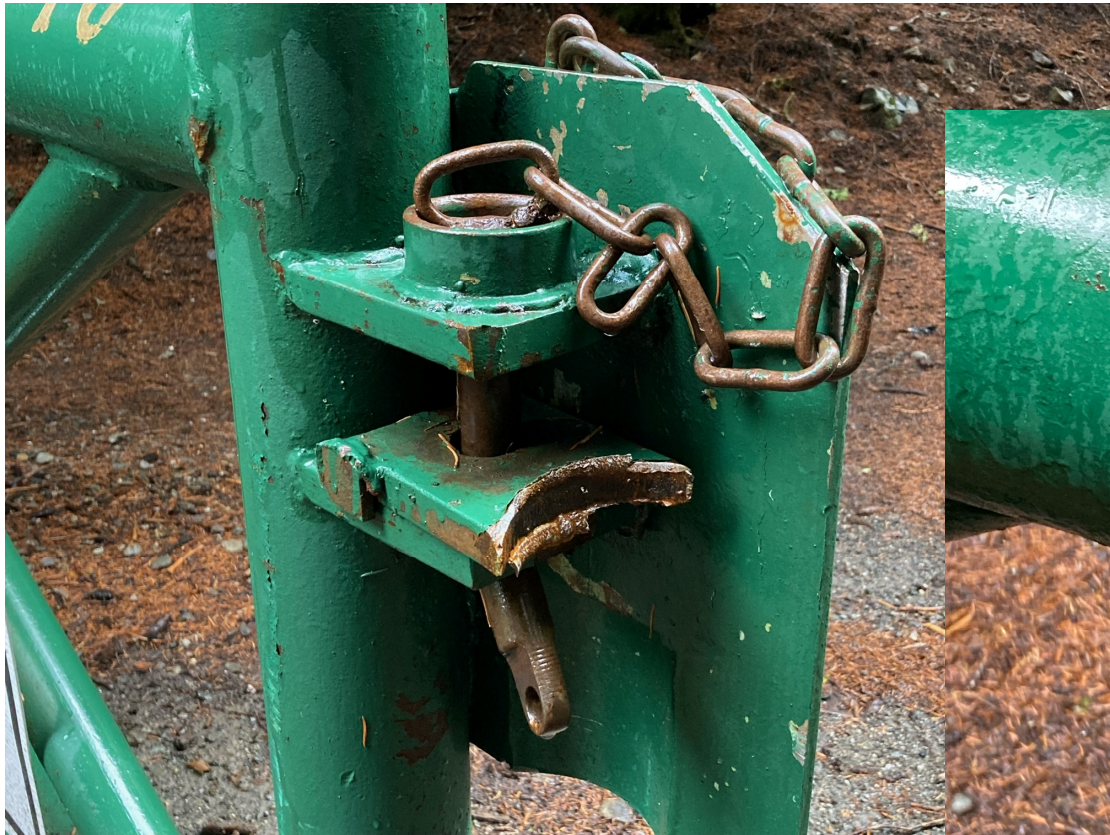
Turntable Maintenance



Dead Tree Removal



Gate Damage



Twin Bridges Area Study

- Monies remaining from the CERCLA effort were being considered for funding a project to clean up the twin bridges area
- Concerns over creosote timbers – mostly on downstream bridge
- MCPA voiced concerns about continued access
- Current direction has changed – no plans to undertake this project

Twin Bridges Area Study

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Central Region Office

1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

Our takeaway is that there are real challenges and limitations in assisting Ecology with the bridge removal. We also appreciate knowing the 1984 special use agreement between the County and the Monte Cristo Preservation Association (MCPA) for the Monte Cristo Road is still in effect. This agreement appears to pose challenges for an arrangement between Ecology and the County in moving forward to remove the piles. Your bridge engineers also provided valuable insight into the logistical challenges of mobilizing pile removal equipment into the area, and concerns over project costs in comparison to available budget.

Monte in the News

- Q13 Fox interview/story December 23, 2023
- <https://www.fox13seattle.com/news/a-look-back-at-the-demise-of-monte-cristo-the-town-at-the-heart-of-the-cascades-gold-rush>

Washington Trails Association Study

- WTA performed a lengthy study and surveyed hikers relating to desires and needs in the south Mountain Loop region
- Monte Cristo scored high in relation to being a favorite destination and a destination in need of access improvements
- WTA worked with Forest Service in compiling a future plan for improvements
- One of their top priorities:
"Re-establish creek crossings to enhance trail access to the Monte Cristo Townsite and trail complex."

Washington Trails Association Study

- MCPA will plan to work in conjunction with FS and WTA to make this a reality
- <https://www.wta.org/news/signpost/vision-for-the-future-of-the-south-mountain-loop-highway>

Granite Falls Historical Society

- Fred Cruger digitized 1000's of period "letter press" documents
- <https://www.gfhistory.org/>
- Link to Fred's DropBox content:
<http://tinyurl.com/MonteCristoLetterPressDocs>
- Samples of letters

Letter Press Samples

Everett, Wash. Feb. 1st, 1893

Received of J.S. Cox Jr. Fifty-five Dollars (\$55.00)
upon the following conditions, viz;

If the said

J.S. Cox Jr. shall, on or before March 1st, 1893,
pay to the Monte Cristo Mining Company, the
further sum of Two Hundred and Twenty Dol-
lars (\$220.00), making in all, the sum of Two
Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars (\$275.00)
as the first payment upon lot numbered Ten
(10) of the plat of Monte Cristo, he shall be en-
titled to purchase said lot for the sum of
Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$550.00) upon
the terms established by the said Monte Cristo
Mining Company; otherwise this payment of
fifty-five Dollars (\$55.00) is to be forfeited to
the said Company.

C.H. Taylor,
Auditor.

Letter Press Samples

May 6th 1902

F. H. Lay M. D.

Dear Sir,

Being as our force on the hill is continually changing and the intervals between your visits there make you almost an entire stranger to the incoming and remaining force we are continually approached by them asking why the Doctor does not come to see them oftener and prescribe instead of at Monte Cristo.

Now to stop all this and make it pleasant for both you and ourselves together we would request you to visit the camp at least once a week and as often between as your services are wanted, and your presence is called for either by accident or otherwise.

Most Respectfully,

Monte Cristo Mining & Concentration Company.

John P. Christopher

Superintendent.

2024 Plans

- Annual Meeting in June
 - Should coincide with MLH opening – see website
- Monthly Work Parties
 - 3rd Saturday starting in June
- Board Membership
 - Unchanged
 - Opening for Corresponding Secretary
 - Thank you Cary Thielen

Log Crossing Conditions

- December 5, 2023 storm caused peak Sauk river flow
- Log Crossing area appears affected
- Also reports of MLH damage beyond Barlow Pass

Log Crossing Conditions



Log Crossing Conditions



Welcome Sign Plans



Some Recently Uncovered Photos



Some Recently Uncovered Photos



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