

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Horse Lake Trail Runs in Wenatchee Foothills attract record field

WENATCHEE — Thank you, Mother Nature.

This Saturday's Horse Lake Trail Runs — a half-marathon and a 5-miler that start at 9 a.m. — are coinciding with peak bloom of wildflowers in the Wenatchee Foothills.

The second-annual event, which is part of the Wenatchee Valley Trail Run Series put on by organizing group RunWenatchee, is expected to sell out at 200 runners. A year ago, the race attracted about 130 participants to the Horse Lake Reserve, three miles northwest of Wenatchee and owned by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

"The trails, including Homestead and Apricot Crisp, are in fine shape for a run," said Hanne Beener, Land Trust trails coordinator.

The Horse Lake Trail Runs are serving as a fundraiser for the Land Trust, with proceeds going toward a new trail on the reserve this year.



Packet pickup and late registration will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 9, at Pybus Public Market, and from 8 to 8:45 a.m. Saturday, May 10, at Horse Lake. The races start at 9 a.m.

On race day, the Mission Ridge Ski Team will shuttle runners from the Wal-Mart parking lot to Horse Lake Reserve and back, beginning at 7:30 a.m. People also can drive to Horse Lake on their own but parking is limited — only about 80 parking spaces. North Face, Great Harvest Bread Co., RunWenatchee and the Land Trust will have booths at the trailhead, and there will be water, sport drink and food on the half-marathon course and at the trailhead. The half-marathon and 5-mile courses will be well marked with directional arrows and volunteers posted at key spots.

Horse Lake is followed in the Wenatchee Valley Trail Run Series by the Red Devil Challenge Trail Runs (25K, 10K and kids race) on June 8 near Cashmere and the Bavarian Battle Trail Runs (10-mile, 8K and kids race) at Leavenworth on June 22. The Leavenworth runs are being held in

conjunction with the June 21 Bavarian Battle Adventure Race. Presenting sponsor of the Trail Run Series is Volyn Law of Wenatchee.

Prize money will be awarded to the top runners who complete all three trail races. The trail run series is the first of its kind along the east slopes of the Cascades in Washington state. For more: http://www.runwenatchee.com/

"With the Leavenworth event, we have a true trail run series now, and one that stretches from one end of the valley to the other," said Steve Maher, a partner in RunWenatchee. "The communities of Wenatchee, Cashmere and Leavenworth are each being featured as are their local trail systems."

According to Matt Kearny, sports tourism coordinator with the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce, the estimated economic impact from the trail run series will be in the \$95,000 to \$100,000 range. That figure include visitor spending as well as funds being raised for the trail series' three beneficiaries — the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Chelan County Mountain Rescue and the Leavenworth Winter Sports Club.

"The Wenatchee Valley is perfectly positioned to offer world-class trail running right out our back door," said Joel Rhyner, RunWenatchee's race director of the series.

In addition to Volyn Law, trail run series sponsors include Project Groundwork, Arlberg Sports, Mission Ridge Ski Team, Great Harvest Bread Co., Cashmere Valley Bank, Orchard Bar, Crunch-Pak, Milepost 111 Brewery, Icicle Brewing Co., North Face and Osprey Rafting.

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