

For Immediate Release

Press Contacts:

Peter Cornelison, Chair, HRVRC, cell 541-490-8473
Jonathan Graca, Executive Director, HRVRC, cell 541-490-3616



Hood River Harvest Ride Announced for Saturday, September 25, 2010

*-- Five loops highlight the Valley's unique beauty --
-- Ride benefits the Hood River Valley Residents Committee --*

Hood River, Ore., July 2, 2010 – Few places in the world are as beautiful as the Hood River Valley. Only thirty miles long by five miles wide, the valley is picturesque and verdant. Its rich volcanic soil and ample water produce a cornucopia of fruit, vegetable and timber harvests. The productive fruit orchards, peaceful small farms, and quaint towns make it seem like a vision out of the past. In a way it is: An intact farm valley without over-development.

This is due in part to the Hood River Valley Residents Committee (www.HRVRC.org), the group that is putting on their second Hood River Harvest Ride on September 25, 2010. Founded in 1977 to stop the creation of one-acre ranchette's in the upper Hood River Valley, today they are expanding their farm and forest preservation mission to include bike advocacy. The Hood River Harvest Ride is a natural blend of both missions.



For bike riders, the Hood River Valley has unique topography. Shaped progressively by volcanoes, giant glaciers and the Columbia Floods, the terrain has tremendous variety. Low traffic farm roads designed for horse drawn travel (i.e. not too steep) meander through the valley and include flat stretches, moderate hill climbs and exciting descents. Superb riding conditions bring the elite Mt. Hood Cycle Classic, a professional road race, to the area every year. Often sunny, when Portland and Vancouver are cloudy, the bike riding is excellent here in the fall.

The Hood River Harvest Ride features five loops, each with its own appeal. The loops- easy, moderate, and challenging- can be combined or done separately, as fitness allows. Along the way are points of interest: farm stands, two museums, a brewery and a winery. Any purchases made while on the ride will be delivered back to the starting point for free by a special courier. Non-bike riders can also get in the on action via the valley's own Mt. Hood Scenic Rail Road which stops in Parkdale, one of the rest stops for the Hood River Harvest Ride, and a good place to meet up with the bike riders.

Regionally grown fruits and vegetables are being provided by five local farms for lunch and at rest stops. A sag wagon will pick up stranded or tired riders as needed.

The Hood River Fairgrounds, located in the center of the valley, is the start and terminus point of the ride. A finish line party there will celebrate the end of the event. Quiet, overnight camping at the Hood River Fairgrounds, which has pay showers, will be available for \$15 a tent or \$20 for an RV on both Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25th. This camp out option allows participants to make a weekend trip out of the event and to rise on Sunday to ride again!

With pre-registration the Hood River Harvest Ride costs \$40 for adults, \$15 for kids under age 14 and \$120 for a family of six. The ride will start at 8 a.m. and finish by 5 a.m. on Saturday September 25, 2010. Reasonably priced, off site child care is available. For more information or to volunteer or register visit: www.hrHarvestRide.com.

About Hood River Valley Residents Committee

The Hood River Valley Residents Committee was formed in 1977 when a few residents gathered to discuss the county's impending attempt to rezone the upper valley into one-acre home sites. Through grass-roots organizing and effort by local citizens, the proposal was rejected. HRVRC was formed.

Today, HRVRC represents 150 dues-paying member families and thousands more progressive Oregonians who want to see Hood River County grow sustainably. Ninety percent of our members are residents of Hood River County. They are a diverse group: pear and apple orchardists, organic farmers, accountants, teachers, lawyers, students, retirees, and recreational enthusiasts. What they have in common is the desire to protect our resource land and promote livability by upholding Oregon's bold land use system. www.hrvrc.org

###