



# Group offers to sign “Fruit Loop” for bicyclists

by [Christine Pratt](#)

Dec. 12, 2013, 8:43 a.m.

CHELAN COUNTY — A group of local advocates for recreation has offered to pay for signing along a popular, off-highway bike route between Wenatchee and Leavenworth, if Chelan County commissioners pledge their support.

“Everyone knows how scary riding on the highway is,” Bob Parlette, spokesman for the group, said Tuesday. “We just want to get the ball rolling. Take the first step.”

The route is over paved, public roads. A small portion is along busy Highway 2 between Dryden and Peshastin.

Local cyclists often refer to it as the “Fruit Loop” for its scenic meanderings around orchards, Parlette said.

The group seeks to make it easily identifiable as an alternate and safer route for cyclists.

The group includes Parlette, Bob Bugert, executive director of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; Andy Dappen, publisher of the Wenatchee Outdoors website; and Shiloh Schauer, executive director of the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce.

They asked Chelan County commissioners Tuesday to support the project and authorize the county’s Community Development and Public Works officials to work with them, possibly identifying existing posts where the signs could be mounted.

Commission chair Doug England said the commission will study the proposal and likely decide Monday.

Parlette’s “Complete the Loop Coalition,” a key lobbyist and fundraiser for extending the east side of the Apple Capital Recreation Loop Trail to Lincoln Rock State Park, would pay for the signs, he said.

The Coalition has yet to calculate how much the signs would cost, he said.

Patrick Walker, bicycle and pedestrian planner for the Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council, said the portion of the route north of Wenatchee is already part of the Greater Wenatchee Bicycle Master Plan.

From the Apple Capital Recreation Loop trail at Wenatchee's Olds Station, the route heads northwest to Monitor along Easy Street or Sleepy Hollow Road.

From Monitor, cyclists take Old Monitor Road and Cottage Avenue to Cashmere and then continue northwest along Sunset Highway, Stines Hill Road and Deadman Hill Road.

The route crosses Highway 2/97 just north of Dryden and continues on Saunders Road until it hits the highway farther north. Cyclists then ride along the highway to Peshastin, where they cross the Wenatchee River bridge and continue to Leavenworth along North Road.

The entire loop covers about 48 miles.