

Mt. Hood Chapter OET Accomplishments 2012

SPRINGWATER CORRIDOR:

Concerns about the springwater Corridor surfaced in February when new signs appeared in Powell Butte Park stating that all horse manure must be removed from the park. A meeting with NV, MH, and local equestrians was held with Portland Parks to review the signage change and discuss other issues. The issues included complaints from bicyclist that equestrians leave manure on the Springwater, and from equestrians that bicyclists ride at excessive rates of speed and do not signal when passing. Portland Parks agreed to put in new signs stating that manure must be moved to the side of the trail. Local riders from the stables close to the Springwater agreed to do clean-up duty while riding for riders who cannot or will not get off their horses to kick manure. Mt. Hood Chapter members rode the Springwater from Powell Butte to Rugg Rd to assess conditions. An agreement was signed with Gresham Parks for MH to clear one of the side trails (horse trail parallel to Springwater) that was no longer receiving maintenance. The trail was cleared June 1. Nancy Carpenter led this effort.

Take Away: It is much better for hikers and equestrians if old railroad beds are maintained as a surface other than paving. A. When rails to trails are paved it pushes equestrians to narrow edges. B. Pavement encourages excessive speed by bicyclists. This will be an issue to work on with the continuation of the Springwater called the Casadero Trail, and on other rural rails to trails projects.

COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA:

The Sandy River Delta is one of our annual commitments working with the Columbia Gorge NSA and Friends of the Sandy River Delta.

In March and April OETMH and Friends put quarter minus stone on muddy sections of the Ranch Dike Trail. In May we removed old rusty barbed wire and posts, an entire pick-up load. Our chapter supplied the tractor and six volunteers.

The paving and structures were completed in the parking lot including a new kiosk and trail entry borders. The Forest Service stenciled "Trailer Parking Only" on the six horse trailer/RV spots to go along with the trailers only sign purchased and installed last year by MHOET. All the trails were mowed in the spring and late fall by MHOET. In November we cut nails and bolts that were protruding as much as six inches from the posts in a new wildlife habitat fence. In December we held a "signage only" meeting to agree on kiosk postings and improved trail signage.

In May Mt Hood and North Valley met with Edan Lira of the Forest Service to evaluate new corrals and expanded parking for Herman Creek "Horse Camp".

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST:

Mt Hood OET members held a March meeting at Mt. Hood HQ with Recreation Director, Mt. Hood National Forest, Recreation Managers east and west sides, Wilderness & Trails Manager Zigzag, Crew Chief east side. Our trail crew cleared three trails in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, Eagle #501, Douglas, and Plaza. Due to logging along the road on private land to reach Eagle Creek Trail #501, we worked with the logging company to gain access. Discussion is underway with the Forest Service on improved trailhead parking.

Zigzag Ranger District Road #380 by Riley Horse Camp was decommissioned. The 380 road to trail proposal was ultimately not feasible due to the depth of the creeks where culverts were pulled.

In GOOD Zigzag news Wildcat Mountain Quarry is no more. The #150 road (.2 mile) into the quarry is bermed, trenched and treed. The quarry itself is trenched. The connecting trail will go in Spring of 2012. The NEW Douglas Trailhead at the junction of roads #105 and #150 is large enough for horse rigs, and constructed so as not to be a draw for illegal shooting.

A meeting in May at Mt. Hood National Forest Headquarters led to a volunteer retreat September 30 at Cloud Cap Inn, high on the flanks of Mt. Hood. The first volunteer coordination follow-up meeting took place in December. The goal is to improve trail access by harnessing the power of many volunteer groups working together.

PARADES:

July 4: Corbett Fourth of July Parade. Ten decked out riders and two pooper-scoopers.

September 29: A team of 12 sharp looking volunteers showed up for the Teddy Bear Parade September 29 in Gresham. Riders with horses and mini's with carts joined the fun. Our Parade leader is Linda Lesowske.

OX bow

CAMPOUTS:

May: Reehers Horse Camp, Tillamook State Forest.

June: Gibson Prairie, Hood River Ranger District to ride and clear trail. MHNF

July 19: Mt. Adams Horse Camp (Gifford Pinchot in Washington).

Eight rigs belonging to Mt. Hood Chapter members pulled into the Mt. Adams Horse Camp on Thursday, July 19, for a four day campout. Pulling in early gave most of our riders the shady campsites.

August: Campout at Riley. MHNF

September: Barb & Dave Adams spent seven days riding beaches from Nehalem Bay to Cape Blanco State Park. Then they worked several days at Cape Blanco to help repair a horse trail. This is a BIG project and made them even more proud of what OET leaders and local volunteers can accomplish.

PLUS:

March 10 more than 20 people attended Play Day at the Portland Gun Club Arena. In the afternoon Nancy Carpenter used a "play pen" and two horses to share her Parelli Training with us.

Mt. Hood send out the Cascade Locks Survey to members. A 27 mile trail is being created out of old logging roads, current trails and new trails near Cascade Locks. It will be open to hikers, bikers and equestrians. April 7 Barb attended an all day planning meeting.

April 12 Max Merlich regaled us with tales and photos of his 1900 mile Pony Express Reenactment Endurance Ridge.

At our May 10 meeting chapter volunteer hours for Zigzag Ranger District and the Columbia River Gorge were recognized. Volunteers received a variety of prizes including trail park passes, headlamps, logo sweatshirts, blankets, and mugs.

July 7: Jack Peasley Memorial Service.

Dave and Barb attended the very nice Memorial Service for Jack Peasley July 7 at the Flying M Ranch. Jack and Vickie recruited our chapter to clear trail in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, and the Pacific Crest Trail. Much to our surprise our chapter (then Columbia Gorge) won the first Jack Peasley award. Jack and Vicki were thrilled that their students made the grade. The example Jack and Vickie set has stuck with us as we are still clearing trails Wilderness Trails.

November 8: David W. Bodin and his partner, Leigh Grieve, discussed preparing our horse trailers for winter.

Volunteer hours: This year volunteer hours for Zigzag Ranger District totaled 245. The Springwater Trail 48 hours, Sandy River Delta 121 hours, and Hood River Ranger District eight hours for a total of 456 hours.

Officers for 2012: Chair, Barb Adams; Co-Chair Wendy Kerns; Vice-chair, Nancy Carpenter; Secretary, Linda Lesowske; Treasurer, Julie Burns; Quartermaster, Barb VanDershelden; Trail Bosses: Harold Kenny and Lot & Pam Scholz. Welcome to our new officer for 2013, Wendy, and thanks to all of our officers who are giving another year