

OET responds to ODF Press Release

Before Labor Day weekend, Oregon Dept. Of Forestry issued a press release encouraging non-horse campers to camp at the ODF horse camps Northrup Creek, Santiam, Stagecoach and Reehers.

The press release starts out with:

"As Labor Day Weekend approaches, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is encouraging families, horseback riders, hikers, and nature lovers of all types to consider exploring Oregon's less-traveled state forest campgrounds, including Northrup Creek Horse Camp in the Clatsop State Forest.

Unlike high-traffic destinations across state forests or state parks that book up months in advance, many of ODF's equestrian campgrounds still offer space for late-summer adventurers, even for those without horses. These quieter sites provide a chance to unplug, unwind, and connect with the outdoors—all while supporting sustainable recreation and forest education.

"Oregon's state forests are spaces for everyone," said Joe Offer, ODF's Recreation, Education, and Interpretation Program Manager. "Our developed recreation sites provide opportunities for recreationalists of all sorts. "

To read entire release, go to:

ESCAPE THE CROWDS: Oregon Department of Forestry recommends less-traveled state campgrounds for Labor Day Weekend - KTVZ https://share.google/ZQ6QqmWCL5CXm3WrE

Equestrians sent angry emails to ODF and flooded social media with their (righteous) indignation. On the one hand, many of our members are upset that ODF would encourage us to invest our time and energy in their camps and trails, only to squeeze us out by allowing the general public to take over the campsites. We feel disrespected and un-valued. On the other hand, the number of horse campers is relatively small and dwindling, and the agency needs to find a way to make their facilities pay for themselves.

Following members' input, Kim McCarrel drafted a letter from OET to convey our concerns and open the door to discussions to find a way to make everybody happy.

We are hopeful this will be a good opportunity to educate ODF about the value OET brings to horse camps and trails throughout the state, as well as the difficulties horseback riders face when camps are full of non-equestrians.

This is one of the reasons why OET membership is so important. We are reminded to spread the word to your other (non-OET) equestrian friends that when these things arise, OET is quick to respond on behalf of all equestrians. Your/their membership helps to make this happen and adds to the number of voices we represent.

Please see OET's entire letter of response on Page 10.

September 2025

President Report 2
VP Public Lands Report 3
VP Field Services Report 4
VP Marketing Outreach Report 4
Seeking Treasuer Nominee 4
Finance Committee Update 5
Outdoor Recreation Summit 6
Oregon Grant Opportunities 6
Tech Corner - Cell Phone Helpers 7
2025 Calendar Events 8
OET's Letter to ODF 10
OET Mission Statement 10
Memorial Horse Tattoos 11
Chapter Information 12
Chapter Reports 13
Fish Lake Trail Cleared 16
Kelsay Valley Update 16
Medical Armband 17
A Long Day 17
Classified AD 18
Public Lands/Field Services Notes 20

Riders' Roundup

A monthly publication from Oregon Equestrian Trails, a non-profit trail and horse camp organization.

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President Frank DeWeese



Our Q3 quarterly board meeting is coming up soon. It will be held at the Sister's Library on September 27th. The library is located at 110 N Cedar St. Sisters, OR. We will have internet access. Those who would like to attend remotely can use the link below to connect. All members are welcome to attend board meetings. Just let your chapter chair know ASAP if you plan to attend in person so we can have an accurate lunch count. Sandra Rosencrantz has graciously volunteered to provide lunch for us at the library.

Some folks are planning to camp at Sister's Cow Camp which is a no fee camp, but is a first-come, first-serve camp so come early and/or stay late. Riding around Cow Camp is great. There are multiple trail opportunities so consider bringing your horse for an opportunity to ride some amazing trails. Other OET members are sure to be there as well.

The FS and the BLM close their fiscal year at the end of September. For all of you who volunteer for those agencies you must have your hours recorded by then for your hours from October 1st, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, to count for the year 2025.

There have been several wildfires in the central and southern Oregon areas this year. Several locations in the state are currently under fire-related closures. It is important to check for closures in the area you intend to go riding or camping in before you head out. The Forest Service has closures listed by district. Searching by the forest area you intend to visit (Deschutes National Forest, for example) will return a list of closure information for the forest of interest. The Oregon Department of Forestry also maintains a list of active fires and can be a great resource. Please be prepared for quick response to wildfires at home and while out enjoying the trails. Keep things packed and ready to go just in case you are ordered to evacuate. I want to see you at work parties and meetings for years to come.

As of this writing, we are still looking for a volunteer to replace Cindy Albrecht as State Treasurer starting in January 2026. If you believe this position is one you can do, please step up. There will be lots of help to support you as you transition into the position. You can find a detailed job description on page 4. OET works because of the volunteers working together. We need your support.

Stay safe and stay healthy. I hope to see you out on the trail or at a horse camp. You can contact me by sending mail to Frank DeWeese 17380 N.W. Orchard View Rd. McMinnville, OR. 97128 or email me at president@oregonequestriantrails.org

Attend September OET Board Meeting

Saturday Saturday Sept. 27, 10AM
Sisters Library. 110 N CedarSt., Sisters.

Online via Google Meet

Meeting ID meet.google.com/wpv-pkvs-xxm
Phone Number: 1-208-741-3899
Pin: 414 831 267#

VP of Public Lands
Kim McCarrel



Changes are coming to a national forest near you.

The Forest Service is reorganizing. They plan to cut additional staff and change policies important to the recreation community, including rescinding the Roadless Rule and modifying their compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Here's a quick overview of how these changes may affect us.

Forest Service Reorganization

The Forest Service has already cut thousands of positions nationwide, including hundreds in Region 6 (Oregon and Washington). Under the reorganization plan proposed last month, its nine regional offices will be abolished to eliminate layers of management. Some observers believe this will move decision-making down to the Supervisors of each forest (which could be a good thing for us, if the Supervisors' offices are adequately staffed for the increased workload and local staff are supportive of horse use). Other observers think decision-making may be consolidated at higher levels within the agency. This would probably be bad for us, since a manager in, say, Ohio, probably wouldn't fully understand the Pacific Northwest's issues.

Furthermore, the agency has indicated that more layoffs and early retirements are expected, which will stretch local forest staff even thinner. Workloads will grow, and morale will decline. Staff reductions will likely impact projects that benefit equestrians, such as trail and road maintenance and re-routing damaged trails.

The End of the Roadless Rule

The Roadless Rule currently prohibits the construction of roads on 58 million acres of National Forest land. (A local example would be the non-Wilderness lands around Quinn Meadow.) The Rule protects these non-Wilderness areas from logging, mining, and drilling. The end of the Roadless Rule may mean that these areas provide less of a backcountry experience than they currently do. And if a timber, mining, or energy company wants to operate in a now-roadless area, they could significantly disrupt recreation there.

NEPA Rule Changes

If you ask any volunteer who participates in trail planning work, they'll all tell you that the way the Forest Service complies with the National Environmental Policy Act is needlessly slow and cumbersome. Improvements would be welcome. But the proposed changes don't just streamline the project approval process, they will severely limit public input on proposed changes. Often, the people doing NEPA analysis in our national forests don't have a good understanding of how a proposed project will impact the recreation community, let alone how it will impact equestrians. The current public comment process enables us to educate NEPA staff, which often improves the design and implementation of a given project. We support efforts to improve the NEPA analysis process, but if the rule change limits opportunities for public comment, that won't be good for equestrians.

How OET Has Responded

We have signed on to a letter authored by the Washington Trails Association and co-signed by the Oregon Trails Coalition, Trailkeepers of Oregon, and other nonprofit trail groups. The letter urges the Forest Service to fully staff the positions that coordinate the efforts of volunteer groups. It explains the critical role of trail volunteers in keeping trails open, and stresses that the agency must staff the positions that coordinate and facilitate the work of volunteers. We have also written to Congress to protest the Forest Service's plans to revoke the Roadless Rule.

As opportunities arise, we will also write letters to urge the Forest Service to support public comment opportunities on proposed projects.

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VP of Field Service



Matt Dolphin

Help OET Shine: Report Your Volunteer Hours

Have you been out on the trail clearing brush, repairing horse camps, or helping at an OET project this year? Don't forget to make those hours count! Every bit of time you give adds up and helps us show our partner agencies just how much volunteer power OET members contribute across the state. Please take a few minutes to report your hours to your chapter Field Services Officer - it ensures your hard work is recognized. These reports also strengthen our case for continued support and funding for the camps and trails we all enjoy.

We offer a gentle nudge to Chapter Chairs and Field Service Officers to get those hours entered into the OET spreadsheet.

Thanks for pitching in and making a difference - together, we're keeping trails open and horse camps a welcoming place to enjoy the outdoors.

VP Marketing Outreach



Collette Hayes

You all have done some great stuff this year! We experienced the largest work parties and collaborations we've had in years! It is so energizing and motivating. Thank you!!

I am looking forward to 2026. For me, this year is almost done so it's time to think about what we are going to do in OET in the future. I have a lot of hopeful plans for next year including several vendor spots.

What do you think about helping out at the Oregon State Fair next year? It is 11 days long and we are 12 chapters strong.

If your chapter has been sluggish, then let's get out there and do some serious membership recruitment in 2026. It's time to get excited for the New Year and the re-energizing of Oregon Equestrian Trails!

As always, feel free to reach out!

The views and opinions expressed by our members and contributing authors to *Riders' Roundup* may be personal and may not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Oregon Equestrian Trails as a whole.

OET Is Looking for a New State Treasurer — Could It Be You?

Oregon Equestrian Trails is seeking a dedicated, detail-oriented, and horse-loving member to join our State Board as Treasurer. This is an exciting opportunity to contribute meaningfully to our mission of preserving and promoting Oregon's equestrian trails - while ensuring our organization stays financially strong and sustainable for years to come.

What You'll Do:

As Treasurer, you'll play a vital role on the board by:

- Keeping clear, accurate financial records
- Preparing simple financial reports for quarterly board meetings
- Helping develop and manage our annual budget
- Ensuring we meet basic state and federal reporting requirements
- Supporting local chapters with financial questions and guidance

You'll work closely with other state officers, chapter leaders, and the finance committee. No need to be a CPA or financial expert - if you're organized, comfortable with numbers, and passionate about OET's mission, we can provide the tools and support you need to succeed.

Why Volunteer?

- Make a real impact on the future of OET and our trail systems
- Build leadership skills and experience
- Collaborate with other passionate equestrians from across the state
- Help keep our organization strong, transparent, and trail-ready!

Interested or Have Questions?

We'd love to talk with you. Please reach out to Melissa McLaughlin (jmjmclaughlin@gmail.com) or Matt Dolphin (mattdolphin@gmail.com) to express interest or learn more about the role.

Let's keep OET riding strong — volunteer today and help shape the trail ahead!

The Tack Box
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(541) 753-3049

Finance Committee Update: Building a Stronger Future

By Matt Dolphin, Finance Committeee

We hope you've been enjoying the summer riding season! The Finance Committee met in July with a clear mission: to strengthen our financial foundation, support our mission more effectively, and better serve you—our valued members. Here's a quick recap of what we discussed and what's ahead:

A Fresh Approach to Budget Planning

Our current budgeting process has mostly involved minor tweaks year to year. This time, we're changing gears! Committee members proposed starting with a "pre-budget conversation" before numbers are finalized. The goal? To look at our expenses and income more strategically.

We're categorizing our costs into:

- **Fixed Expenses** like insurance, software, office supplies, and fees—necessary and largely unchangeable.
- **Variable Expenses** like the newsletter, marketing, and service projects—where we have more flexibility.

With most membership dues arriving early in the year, we'll soon know how much we have to work with for 2026. That gives us a chance to prioritize our goals—like possibly investing more in the grant fund that supports trail and camp projects at the chapter level!

Dues Adjustment Proposal

Did you know OET hasn't raised dues since 2008? After much thoughtful discussion, the committee is unanimously recommending a modest increase to help cover rising costs, boost services, and increase our fund available for matching grants. The recommendation will be brought to the state board for discussion and and vote at its upcoming meeting. Here's what's being proposed:

- Individual Membership: from $30 → $40
- Family Membership: from $35 → $45

We understand increases are never easy. The goal is to keep OET strong without putting a strain on members.

Printed Newsletter Fee Recommendation

By far one of OET's largest expense is printing and mailing of the newsletter you're reading right now. Over the years, costs have climbed and fewer members now receive a printed newsletter. The calculated cost of receiving the newsletters is $28.59/year per subscriber based on the latest newsletter issues and subscriber counts. Yes, it really does cost this much to print and mail 11 issues per person per year! Currently, members who opt for electronic delivery are subsidizing the cost for those who prefer print-that doesn't seem quite fair or sustainable in the long run.

To balance this out, the committee recommends:

- A $28 annual fee for members who want a printed newsletter.
- No additional fee for members who choose the email version.

This new system will ensure fairness and help us manage our resources wisely. We'll be updating forms and materials so members can easily make their selection when they renew their membership for 2026.

Reconnecting with Members

Membership has dipped and we think a big part of that is due to fewer personal touches like mailed reminders. We opted for electronic-only reminders last year in part to reduce our expenses, but may need to reconsider mailed reminders for the future.

To bring folks back and keep current members engaged we're recommending:

- Chapter chairs (and volunteers!) are encouraged to personally reach out to members—especially to invite those who haven't renewed.
- A helpful call or email can go a long way in making someone feel appreciated.
- We're developing a simple outreach script to make this easy for chapters to do.

What's Next?

All of these recommendations will be discussed at the September Board Meeting. You're welcome to attend in person or virtually. As always, we're committed to keeping members informed and involved. If you have any questions or concerns, please let your chapter chair know or reach out directly to the finance committee chair, Matt Dolphin (mattdolphin@gmail.com)

Thank you for being part of the OET community. Your support keeps our trails open and OET strong. Happy riding!



Registration is open

The Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit (in partnership with the Oregon Trails Summit) brings together Oregon's outdoor community to learn, build relationships, and find solutions to the challenges we face in developing and elevating outdoor recreation opportunities to best serve Oregon communities and celebrate and protect our natural, cultural, and historic wonders.

The 2025 summit will take place November 6-8 at the Pendleton Convention Center and surrounding areas in beautiful northeastern Oregon!

The summit combines fun and high impact in-person networking opportunities with conference programming on the important issues of the day, educational content, an outdoor film night, trails stewardship work parties, and in-field tours and workshops.

Current and upcoming grant cycles for OPRD-administered grant programs

These programs fund a variety of outdoor recreation and heritage projects across the state. For comprehensive information about each program, staff contact information, grant program manuals, webinar recordings, application materials, and other information, visit our website: https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/GRA/Pages/GRA-overview.aspx

OPRD uses an online grant application system: https://oprdgrants.org/. Applications become available on OPRD Grants on the grant cycle opening date as noted below for each program.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP) - opens September 2, 2025

This federally funded program funds recreational trail projects including the development and restoration of motorized and nonmotorized trails, trailheads, trail building and maintenance equipment, accessibility assessments, and more. Eligible applicants include local governments, state agencies, federal agencies, tribal governments, and eligible nonprofits. Approximately $1.6 million is available. Letters of Intent are due on the OPRD Grants website by September 30 and completed applications are due on November 15, 2025. A technical assistance webinar will be held on Thursday, September 11 (registration required). For more information or questions contact Jodi Bellefeuille at jodi.bellefeuille@oprd.oregon.gov.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – opens September 15, 2025

This federally funded program funds the development, rehabilitation, and acquisition of a wide variety of outdoor recreation facilities. Eligible applicants include local governments, certain state agencies, and tribal governments. Approximately $8 million is anticipated to be available. Applications are due on the OPRD Grants website on November 17, 2025. A technical assistance webinar will be held on Wednesday, September 10 (registration required). Contact nohemi.enciso@oprd.oregon.gov with questions.

Tech Corner

By Marty DeVall, OET Web Master

Your Smartphone's Secret Helpers: GPS, Wi-Fi, Cellular Data, and More

Your smartphone has some amazing technology inside that lets it do incredible things, making life safer and more convenient. When you're out on the trail, it's vital to understand the difference between finding your location and actually seeing a map. The answer lies in a few key helpers: **GPS**, your **internet connection (Wi-Fi**, **cellular data)**, and even **Bluetooth**. Understanding how they work together can make you a more confident smartphone user.

GPS: The Satellite Navigator

GPS (Global Positioning System) is a system of satellites orbiting high above the Earth. Your phone has a small receiver that listens for signals from these satellites. By calculating the time it takes for signals to reach your phone from a few different satellites, your phone can pinpoint your exact location on the planet.

Think of it as a friend at three different locations (the satellites) all calling you at the same time. By knowing how long each call took, your phone can figure out exactly where you are. Your phone can do this on its own, even if you are out of cell signal, which makes GPS a great tool for safety on the trail! It knows your precise coordinates, which is what allows mapping apps to place a blue dot on the screen showing your position.

Wi-Fi and Cellular Data: The Internet Connection

While GPS finds your location, your phone still needs the internet to download and display the maps, show you traffic, or find a business address. That's where **Wi-Fi** and **cellular data** come in. They are two different ways for your phone to get online.

- **Wi-Fi** is the internet connection you use at home or in a coffee shop. It uses a router to broadcast a wireless internet signal. Wi-Fi is great because it's usually faster and has no limits on how much data you can use.
- **Cellular data** is the internet connection you use when you're away from Wi-Fi. It uses the signal from the nearest cell tower. It's what allows you to browse the web when you're out and about, but your data usage is often limited by your phone plan. Think of your cellular data plan as a monthly allowance from your phone company.

Your smartphone is smart enough to know the difference! To save your limited cellular data, your phone will **always prefer to connect to a Wi-Fi network** when one is available. When you leave a Wi-Fi hotspot, your phone will automatically switch to using cellular data to keep you connected. You can even check your phone's settings to see how much cellular data you've used this month.

Putting It All Together with Maps

The combination of GPS and a data link is what makes a mapping app work on the go.

- The **GPS** receiver gets your exact location from satellites.
- The **cellular data link** (or a Wi-Fi connection) provides the internet connection needed to download the detailed map images and search for locations.

This is where planning ahead is so important, especially for OET members!

Your phone's GPS will work anywhere, even without a cell signal. It will know you're at a certain set of coordinates, but it won't be able to show you a map of the trail or the landmarks around you if it can't download the map data. This is a common situation out on the trail where cellular service is spotty or nonexistent.

Always Pre-Load your Map Data

To prepare for a ride, be sure to open your trail mapping app while you are still at home on a good **Wi-Fi connection**. Load and view the entire trail you plan to ride. This lets the app download the map data you will need while you have a Internet connection. Many popular apps like **Google Maps**, **AllTrails**, and **onX Maps** also allow you to download a specific area of a map for offline use. This means you can save the map to your phone while on a Wi-Fi connection. Then, when you are out of cell range on the trail, your phone will use the **GPS to find your location** and the **downloaded map data to show you where you are.** This simple step can be a lifesaver, ensuring you always know where you are on the trail and making your ride much safer.

What About Bluetooth?

Bluetooth is another wireless technology inside your phone, but it is not used to get on the internet or find your location. Its purpose is to connect your phone to other devices over a very short distance—usually just a few feet.

Think of it as a very short, invisible string that ties your phone to another device so they can talk to each other. For example, you use Bluetooth to connect to a wireless speaker to play music, to pair with hands-free headphones for a call, or to sync with the entertainment system in your car.

Conclusion

By understanding what each of these helpers does, you are now better prepared to use your smartphone as a powerful tool for your equestrian adventures. Knowing that GPS is your trusted location finder and that downloading maps ahead of time is your key to staying safe and on the trail, you can ride with confidence. With this knowledge, technology can become a great partner on the trail, giving you peace of mind and allowing you to simply enjoy your ride.

2025 Calendar of Events

September					
1 Sep	6:00PM - 7:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 601-688-3254 PIN 290189192#	OET Field Service/Public Lands Call. https://meet.google.com/swn-imhr-ioz
6 Sep		North Coast	Ride	Fort Stevens State Park, Hammond	Time TBD, weather dependent. northcoast@myoet.org
8-12 Sep		Mt. Hood	Special	Timothy Lake, https://maps.app.goo.gl/pKVxnYam2Gz7Bsqa9	*New Group Camp* PGE's Stone Creek Horse Camp Contact: Larry Wilson, +1 (541)609-0509
12-14 Sep		Northwest	Campout	Camp Wilkerson Horse Camp, Rainier	Check with our chapter chair Hope Flint if you want to get a campsite! drhopeflint@gmail.com
13-14 Sep		North Coast	Campout	Camp Wilkerson Horse Camp, Rainer	Wooded campground, wooded trails with some hills. northcoast@myoet.org
13 Sep		Mid-Valley	Ride	Perrydale Trails, Sheridan	Fun Ride and Potluck. Make your own reservations. midvalley@myoet.org
17-Sep	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup by 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
26-28 Sep		State	Campout	Sisters Cow Camp Sisters	Camp, ride and attend Board Meeting
27 Sep	10:00AM - 2:00PM	State	Meeting	Sisters City Library	Q3 2025 Board Meeting. Everyone Welcome! Meeting available virtually.
October					
4 Oct		North Coast	Ride	Fort Stevens State Park, Hammond	Time TBD, weather dependent. northcoast@myoet.org
6 Oct	6:00PM - 7:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 601-688-3254 PIN 290189192#	OET Field Service/Public Lands Call. https://meet.google.com/swn-imhr-ioz
11 Oct		Mid-Valley	Campout	Nehalem Bay campout	Fun Ride and Potluck Sat. midvalley@myoet.org
15-Oct	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup by 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
18 Oct	8:00AM - 1:30PM	Public	Special	694 NE 4th Ave, Canby	Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale.New and other horse-related items.
18 Oct	8:00AM - 1:30PM	Public	Special	694 NE 4th Ave, Canby	Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale.New and other horse-related items. Parking $5, admission is $1 per person.

November					
1 Nov		North Coast	Ride	Fort Stevens State Park, Hammond	Time TBD, weather dependent. northcoast@myoet.org
3 Nov	6:00PM - 7:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 601-688-3254 PIN 290189192#	OET Field Service/Public Lands Call. https://meet.google.com/swn-imhr-ioz
15 Nov		Mid-Valley	Ride	Elijah Bristow State Park, Pleasant Hill	Fun Ride and Potluck. midvalley@myoet.org
19-Nov	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup by 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
22 Nov	10:00AM - 2:00PM	State	Meeting	Canby Library	Q4 2025 Board Meeting. Everyone Welcome! Meeting available virtually.
December					
1 Dec	6:00PM - 7:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 601-688-3254 PIN 290189192#	OET Field Service/Public Lands Call. https://meet.google.com/swn-imhr-ioz
6 Dec		Mid-Valley	Ride	Oregon Horse Center	Mt Trail fun ride. Ride then tea/cookies Reservations needed (541) 689-9700
13 Dec		North Coast	Party		
17-Dec	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup by 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
January 2026					
1 Jan		Mid-Valley	Ride	McDonald Forest Peavy Arboretum	Fun Ride and lunch at Restaurant midvalley@myoet.org

Please visit OregonEquestrianTrails.org/calendar for more details of scheduled Events.

OET State Board Meetings - All OET Members Welcome

September 27th - 3rd Qtr Board Meeting. Sisters City Library. Campout at Sisters Cow Camp!
November 22nd - 4th Qtr Board Meeting. Canby Library
February 21st 2026 - Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet. Roth's Fresh Market, Salem
February 22nd 2026 - 1st Qtr Meeting. Comfort Suites Meeting Room, Hawthorn Street, Salem

Receive Riders' Roundup via email only

If you wish to cancel your paper copy, please email Membership@myoet.org and let Micheline know. If you want to continue to receive a paper copy, think about donating $ to help cover the cost of printing. You can find all the issues of the newsletter on the web in the trail mail file on the OET cloud.

OET Letter of response to ODF

To: Tim Hoffman, tim.l.hoffman@odf.oregon.gov,
Joe Offer, joseph.h.offer@odf.oregon.gov

We are writing today on behalf of Oregon Equestrian Trails members and the equestrian trail riding community.

As you probably already know, ODF's recent press release encouraging the public to reserve sites in horse camps has equestrians in an uproar. Social media has been flooded with angry comments, and no doubt you've received calls and emails from irate horse campers.

We understand ODF's need to utilize its facilities to the fullest. Still, we believe there are better ways to accomplish this than to allow the public to reserve horse sites, and we'd like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss possible alternatives. There are several reasons why we don't want to see all horse campsites open to the public:

1. Equestrians volunteer their time and energy to maintain horse camps and the surrounding trails. Over the last three years, Oregon Equestrian Trails members have invested 393 hours in maintaining the corrals and clearing fallen logs and brush from the trails at Reehers, Stagecoach, Northrop Creek, and Santiam. This may not seem like much to you, but given the size and age of our group, it's a significant effort for us. And it adds up. According to Independent Sector's annual surveys, the value of those 393 hours is $13,900. At $20 a night per campsite, that equates to 695 camping nights, or 232 nights per year. Equestrians happily make this investment in horse camps and trails to ensure that we have places to camp and ride. We don't want equestrians to be squeezed out of horse camps because non-horse campers fill them.

2. Mixing equestrians and non-horse campers can create hazards if the two are not adequately separated. Every equestrian who has ever camped side by side with non-horse campers has experienced frightening moments, emerging from their tent or camper to find unsupervised children from a nearby campsite climbing on the corrals, trying to feed something to the horses, throwing rocks at the horses, inside the corrals, trying to pet or mount the horses, etc. These kids are at risk of being kicked, bitten, or stepped on. Having sites in one section of a campground for campers with horses and another section for those without is one thing, but encouraging the public to reserve a campsite among sites filled with horses is another.

3. Equestrians are only allowed to camp in horse camps, of which there are precious few. The public can camp in any campground they like. If the public can also reserve horse camp sites, these sites will not be available for equestrian use, pushing equestrians out of the forest. This is a very real concern for us.

As mentioned above, we acknowledge ODF's need to fill your campgrounds. We also note that horse campers are a small subset of the overall camping population, and our numbers may not be sufficient to fill every equestrian campsite every weekend. We support your objective of better facility utilization, provided that at least some sites are reserved for equestrian use while ensuring the safety of all. We believe there are better ways to fill horse campsites than to completely open them up to the public.

For example, Northrop Creek has sites that are for campers without horses, others for campers with horses, and some that are reservable by either type. This approach could be applied at other camps, so long as the user types are separated or screened from one another for safety. This approach would allow horse sites to absorb excess public demand without disadvantaging equestrians who are willing to plan a little.

We're sure there are other possible solutions. Could we schedule a meeting in the near future to discuss alternatives?

Kim McCarrel

VP Public Lands

Oregon Equestrian Trails

{Multiple OET officer signers where added)

Our Mission Statement

OET advocates for recreational access,
partners with land managers to care for trails and horse camps,
and unites equestrians through
opportunities and information related to trail riding.

Memorial Horse Tattoos

By Leslye Wing, Riders' Roundup Editor

I was impressed by a member's recent declaration of love for her Heart horse that recently passed, by getting a beautiful tattoo. Dana Esbensen rode her horse on many trails and many miles for 23 years.

"My tattoo is inside my left arm, so I can hold her close to my heart. I miss her every day. Grieving is a complicated process."

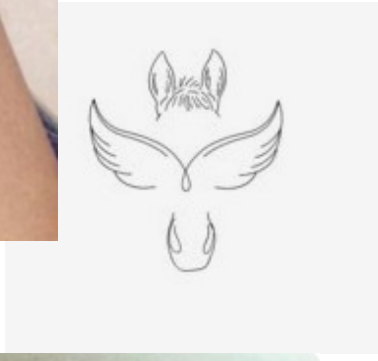
Dana Esbensen



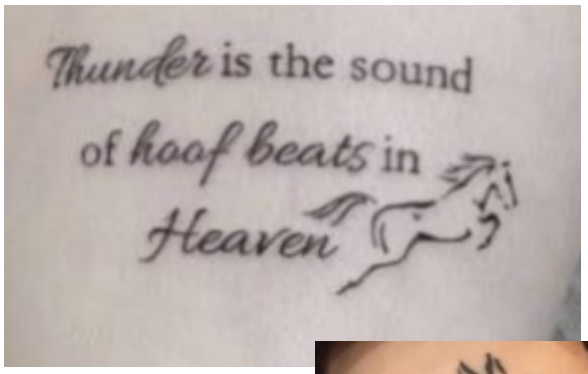
Horse memorial tattoo ideas include portraits or silhouettes of the horse, personalized elements like its name or dates, symbolic imagery such as horseshoes, hoofprints, or wings, and incorporating the horse into a larger design or scene. Considering what was special about the horse and your bond, choose a design that feels unique and meaningful to you.

Here are some samples I found online.









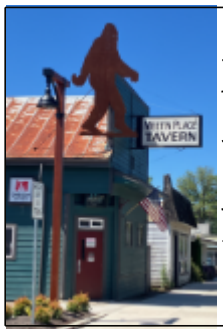




...Trail Groups stepped up

Outside magazine recently interviewed the Deschutes Trails Coalition (of which OET is a founding member) for the article listed below. It showcases the difficulties many nonprofits are facing in this period of staffing cuts at the land management agencies and curtailed federal grant funding.

When Federal Cuts Threatened Trails, These Groups Stepped Up https://share.google/6fyUlm5PhNZsnFGPw



Meet'N Place Tavern
1150 Main Street
Philomath, OR

OET Chapters

Chapter	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Contact
Central Oregon Chapter	First Tuesday Potluck at 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Pleasant Ridge Hall 7067 SW Canal Redmond, OR	Gayla Nelson centraloregon@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 420-1837**
Columbia County Chapter	Second Wednesday Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Warren Moose Lodge 57317 Old Portland Rd. Warren, OR	Bob Rice columbiacounty@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 366-3736**
Eugene Chapter	First Tuesday Speaker: 6PM Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	McKenzie Feed & Pet 4441 Main Street Springfield	Leslye Wing eugene@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 849-9155**
Mid-Valley Chapter	Second Wednesday Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Sizzler 2148 Santiam Hwy SE Albany	Mark Lehnert midvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 730-1653**
Mt. Hood Chapter	Second Thursday Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Elmers 1590 NE Burnside Gresham	Mary Blankevoort mthood@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 703-1232**
North Coast Chapter	Second Tuesday Meeting: 5:30 p.m. .	Clatsop County Fairgrounds 4H Clubhouse - across from main complex 92937 Walluski Loop, Astoria	Ashley Lertora northcoast@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 325-2733**
North Valley Chapter	First Tuesday Dinner : 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Jimmy O's Pizzeria 1678 S Beavercreek Rd Oregon City	Brett Branch northvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 908-4461**
Northwest Chapter	Third Monday Dinner/Social: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	Prime Time Sports Bar & Restaurant 4450 Pacific Avenue Forest Grove	Hope Flint northwest@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 643-7840**
Roseburg Chapter	*New Day!* Fourth Thursday Meeting: 6:00 p.m.	Douglas Co. Electrical Co-op 1931 N. Stephens Street Roseburg	Lynda Harding roseburg@oregonequestriantrails.org **(559) 696-7601**
Silver Falls Chapter	Third Monday Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	Salem Saddle Club Mtg Rm 7005 Lardon Rd Salem	Bonnie DePriest silverfalls@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 951-0589**
South Coast Chapter	Third Wednesday Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	Dave's Pizza 740 Kooz Bay Blvd Coos Bay	Kimi Larkin southcoast@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 321-2092**
West Valley Chapter	First Thursday No-host dinner: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	American Legion Post 21 126 NE Atlantic McMinnville	Melissa McLaughlin westvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 560-0771**

Chapters may need to alter meetings or events.
Please contact Chapter Chairs for up-to-date meeting locations and times

Chapter Reports

Central Oregon Chapter

Clear skies and pleasant temperatures have made our work parties a little easier this summer. We have completed work parties on the new Met-Win section by Todd Lake, which separates the horse trail from a section where bike riders fly downhill. The work crew, consisting of seven members from OET, SWATS (Sawyers with Attitude to Spare), and COTA (Central Oregon Trails Alliance) hauled in and installed posts with a great deal of effort. It's a beautiful section of trail that leads to Broken Top and a peaceful meadow at the middle fork of Tumalo Creek.

At the newly Forest Service-approved horse trails in the Ochocos, nine OETers installed carcinite posts, that work parties will attach trail signs too. One of work parties will be a campout.

Scott Hills reported on a coalition of several trails maintenance groups who have concerns about lack of federal trail crews in the wilderness and suggested that OET take part. The crew goes out every Tuesday to brush trails on foot and participants are awarded a wilderness pass for 40 hours of work.

As for Sisters Cow Camp, be sure to bring your own horse water. Lee Fischer continues to work on the water line there, but it looks like a long-term effort.

Columbia Chapter

We didn't hold our monthly chapter meeting for August; however, everyone was invited to a BBQ potluck at Bob and Gloria Rice's house on August 16th. Bob's brother, Dr. Dale Rice DVM, is a veterinarian in Colorado and agreed to do a question-and-answer session (he is also licensed in OR, CA, & HI). Dr. Dale started with an introduction and had several handouts available, then took questions for the next couple of hours. There were 20 of us enjoying the day outdoors, eating great food, and having a chance to ask questions of Dr. Dale. In addition to all of the people, we had six adorable dogs attending that got along great together.



Columbia County Chapter August meeting and potluck.

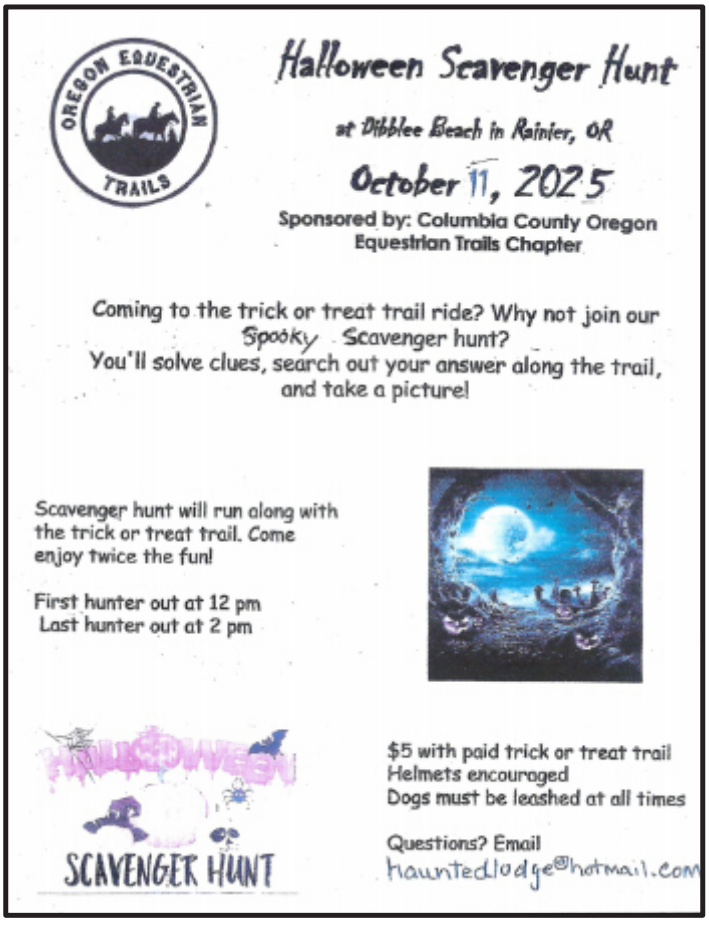












Mt. Hood Chapter

Mt. Hood members have been out riding and camping. In July, under the leadership of Mickey Yeager and Larry Wilson, 14 members plus Marty DeVall from North Valley worked to improve safety and esthetics on the fenced arena at the McIver State Park equestrian site. We pulled, re-set and capped T-posts to assure that any unfortunate rider going over the fence would not hook up on an exposed T-post tip. Panels were re-arranged and straightened, and the whole project was done in just a few hours. Park staff were welcoming and provided extra equipment as needed. Looks great now!







Workingon fencing at McIver State Park!

North Coast Chapter

The North Coast chapter had a good turnout at our August meeting. Perhaps it was the potluck and beautiful garden of Linda Brim's that drew the crowd or perhaps it was our endearing and knowledgeable speakers!

Huge thanks go out to Camryn and Brynn Jasper from the Melville 4-H club. Their presentation described the horse camp their family offers. This was the second summer that they were able to introduce the world of horses to young novices, many who had never touched a horse before camp! Kudos to the whole family for helping boost the horse industry!

We were fortunate to have another 4-Her, Maddie Ramsey, deliver some emergency know-how. With the help of her mom, Dr. Stephanie Ramsey of Big Creek Veterinary, she demonstrated how a simple dog slip lead can be an extremely useful tool. During a recent personal experience, she and her mom came across a loose dog. In order to restrain it and keep it safe, all they had available was a slip lead. And that's all it took to be able to ensure the dog would not get hurt and could be returned to its owner safe and sound! Maddie showed how a lead could be wrapped around a small animal in a half dozen different ways depending on what the circumstances warranted.

Our luck really did overflow at the meeting. Dr. Ramsey, a big supporter of our county's open rides at the local fairgrounds through the winter, stepped up with more than word praise. Mary Kemhus, our Open Ride coordinator, accepted a $284 check from Dr. Ramsey! We had 142 riders take advantage of the dry indoor arena last season. Dr. Ramsey understands NCOET hosts each ride but receives no renumeration for it. So for the scores of volunteer hours our chapter provides, this is her way of thanking all of us. It is a win-win: with such solid and committed horse riders who appreciate what we do, we are super happy to do it!

The other main event of the month was a camping trip to Joe Graham Horse Camp in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Linda Brim, Donna Hammond and Ashley Lertora braved the heat and had a terrific time. "The trails are challenging, well-maintained, and busy. Not many horse campers, but we encountered PCT hikers from all over the world!" said Ashley.

We have two more campouts on the schedule: Labor Day weekend at Northrup Creek Horse Camp and mid September at Camp Wilkerson in Columbia County. Let's hope the temperature cools down to give us glorious fall riding weather!



Camryn and Brynn Jasper highlighting their family's horse camp sessions.



Maddie and Stephanie Ramsey sharing slip lead maneuvers.



Linda Brim and Ashley Lertora beaming at Graham Horse Corral campout near the PCT.



Mary Kemhus accepting a donation from Dr. Ramsey in support of our hosting our county's open rides.

Northwest Chapter

Northwest Chapter did not have an August meeting as everyone is out enjoying riding and camping. Last month we notified the Park Manager of Stub Stewart about some trees on the Williams Creek trail and he got those all taken care of, just as he said he would! Thank you, Aaron and staff!

Our Chapter meeting in September will be at Camp Wilkerson on Saturday the 13th at 3pm. Come ride and join us for our meeting. We will have a hamburger and hotdog potluck. The more the merrier, so come join us!

North Valley

August meeting started with members sharing their favorite activity done over the summer.

Our presenter was Faith Roney, who spoke about the Rascal Rodeo. This program empowers individuals with special needs through rodeo experiences. To register, donate, or volunteer, please visit https://rascalrodeo.org.

Group ride success stories were shared by the Trail Bosses: Hardy Creek Ride by Brett Branch, who has posted maps on Facebook events; Frog Lake Ride by Susan High; and, Port Blakley, Buckner Creek Area by Faith Roney.

Discussion was held regarding OET Calendar access and connecting to a phone calendar.

Our contact at Oregon Trails – Restore, Ride, and Hike is Marion Griffith.

Marty DeVall reported that Mt. Hood Chapter did repairs to the equestrian arena fence at McIver State Park. They realigned panels and capped t-posts. The damaged wooden hitch rail will be repaired.

There was discussion about being a trail boss and managing unprepared riders and horses. Discussion was held regarding OET signboards advising about work on trails in progress.

NVOET Chapter Rides

September 6 - Silver Falls – Trail Boss is Pam Duggan.

October 18 – NVOET Breast Cancer Ride – Trail Boss is Tamara Glover

October – Halloween Ride – Trail Boss is Erin Shadder

November 28 – Black Friday Ride – Trail Bosses are Shonda Smith and Tamara Glover

December – TBD

Roseburg Chapter clears Fish Lake Trail

By Kyle Miller, Roseburg Chapter

We successfully cleared and brushed out about five miles of trail from the Fish Lake trailhead to Fish Lake and the trail beside the lake. Fish Lake is in the Tiller Ranger District up the South Umpqua River drainage.

Years ago, our club built the trailhead facility, hitching rails, a high line, picnic tables, and two parking lots in a team effort with the Forest Service. However, over the years, the Fish Lake trail became impassable for horses. We solved this problem. Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of a long-time member, we hired Source One Serenity veterans to clear the trail. A Forest Service trail crew and a fire crew helped us with the project. A club member packed the veterans group into Fish Lake with his mules. It's exciting to have this beautiful trail open again.

So head up to Fish Lake and enjoy a beautiful ride.

Kelsay Valley -Project Update

By Kyle Miller, Roseburg Chapter

*We received our Notice to Proceed with the official start date of the two year project being September 30, 2025. Yippee!

*NorthWest Youth Corps will be working for three weeks this fall, starting on October 6, 2025. They will work three more weeks next year. They will be camping at the Kelsay Valley Horse camp, and OET is leaving up our canopy for them to use.

*Source One Serenity veterans will start work in the fall of 2026.

*OET will have work parties starting in the spring of 2026.

* We have two years to finish the project.

* We need to contribute around 600 hours of volunteer work to the project.

To help out or for more information contact Kyle Miller 541-733-0583 kyletheelkhunter@gmil.com

Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Some trails are happy ones, Others are blue.
It's the way you ride the trail that counts,
Here's a happy one for you.

Dale Evans

Wear a Medical Armband when out riding

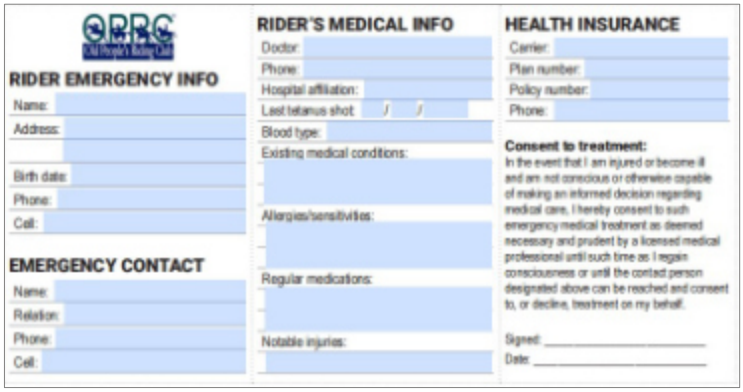
By Leslye Wing, Eugene Chapter

At our most recent Chapter meeting we got to talking about precautions while riding. We had recent injuries at our local "safe" State Park illustrating that accidents can happen anywhere and at any time.

Many of our members are also members of a national based riding club , Old People's Riding Club. One of their requirements to participate in any riding activity is to be wearing a medical armband. The armband needs to be filled out with emergency information such as existing medical conditions, contact information, treatment consent, and more. Additional information that one may want to add when riding on the trails is where your trailer is located, where your keys can be found, and your camp site location (if camping).

A downloadable fillable pdf can be found at https://www.oregonequestriantrails.org/pdfs/OPRC_Emergency_Med.pdf.

The Old People's Riding Club (OPRC) welcomes riders from all disciplines over the age of 21. We have English riders, Western riders, dressage riders, jumper riders, pleasure-trail riders, endurance riders, combined training riders, the full spectrum. We also have members who love horses but do not ride. The purpose of the OPRC is to have safe, enjoyable riding activities, meet other riders with fresh new outlooks on the sport, and encourage knowledge of horses all around. There are two chapters based in Oregon, one in Salem and one in Eugene.



OPRC

RIDER EMERGENCY INFO

Name:
Address:
Birth date:
Phone:
Cell:

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:
Relation:
Phone:
Cell:

RIDER'S MEDICAL INFO

Doctor:
Phone:
Hospital affiliation:
Last tetanus shot: / /
Blood type:
Existing medical conditions:
Allergies/sensitivities:
Regular medications:
Notable injuries:

HEALTH INSURANCE

Carrier:
Plan number:
Policy number:
Phone:

Consent to treatment:
In the event that I am injured or become ill and am not conscious or otherwise capable of making an informed decision regarding medical care, I hereby consent to such emergency medical treatment as deemed necessary and prudent by a licensed medical professional until such time as I regain consciousness or until the contact person designated above can be reached and consent to, or decline, treatment on my behalf.

Signed: _____
Date: _____



HORSE EMERGENCY INFO

Veterinarian info:
Name:
Phone:

Insurance info:
Carrier:
Plan number:
Policy number:
Phone:

Horse owner's info (if different from rider's info):
Name:
Phone:

Veterinarian expenses cap:
Dollar amount: $
Special instructions:

Consent to treatment:
In the event that I am injured or become ill and am not conscious or otherwise capable of making an informed decision regarding horse's medical care, I hereby consent to such emergency medical treatment, not to exceed the veterinarian expense cap, as is deemed necessary and prudent by a licensed medical professional until such time as I regain consciousness or until the contact person designated, or the horse owner, can be reached and consent to, or decline, treatment on my behalf.

Signed: _____
Date: _____

A Long Day

Devin Dole (Devin Out West) Original Poem
Reprinted from https://www.facebook.com/devin.conley.12

Have you ever climbed into the pick up, after a long day ,and your clothes smell of horse sweat, and your hands are dirty, and your soul feels cleaner ?

Whether you spent all day horseback looking for yearlings that traveled up and over the far side of the mountain, or in the dusty arena of your local show, or under the bright lights of some million dollar event.. a long day is a long day.

When the water from the bottle you left under your seat is tepid and flat, but tastes better than what you imagined pouring from a crystal clear spring.

And the pickup seat holds you like an old friend and more comfortable that any chair you can recollect. Your knees whisper that tomorrow they will ache, and your jeans rub you in that spot they always do, and your bones feel heavier than this morning, and your feet are leaden as you reacquaint yourself with solid ground.

Your eyes have a twinge of red from arena dirt, or the thick dust that billows around sagebrush, as you push a herd through the high desert. Stray specks drift under around your glasses that settle in your eye .

And your phone has sat neglected in your pocket all day, or the cup holder, or the tack room, and you leave it where it quietly beckons. Not quite ready to return your attention to the world that demands all of it .

Where there might be tie-strings in your back seat and remnants of a gas station breakfast on the floorboards, or a cowboy hat on the dash .

Tired horses load easy into the trailer, ready to lower their heads and rest on the ride home.

You fire the engine (a familiar hum) and stretch your arms shaking out the saddle stiffness that creeps in all your joints and muscles. You are tired and dirty and your stomach reminds you that your gas station breakfast was hours ago, but your heart is full.

The smell of sweet warm horse breath, and alfalfa from hay bags , and the last of sip of cold coffee in your mug are your companions as you began the drive home.

As the sky darkens and stars appear, the grit of the day fades and you drive home in silence and thanking God for one more day, living life on the back of a horse.

Classified AD

Deerpark Farm & Stables, located in NW Portland, at the junction of Beck & Skyline, is now accepting applications for new boarders starting in September 2025.

For more details, visit deerparkstables.com or reach out to fergusm@deerparkstables.com

SOUTH WILLAMETTE VETERINARY CLINIC
Dr. Wes Violet
www.swvetclinic.com
255 Emerald Parkway, Creswell
(541)895-5665

















SEVEN FEATHERS
CASINO RESORT



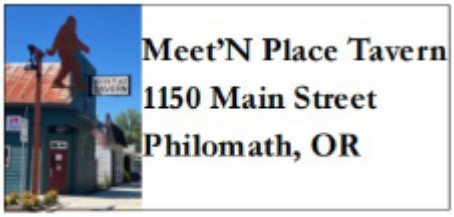
TOKLAT®





















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September 2025 - Riders' Roundup

A monthly publication from Oregon Equestrian Trails, a non-profit trail and horse camp organization

August 4, 2025

Public Lands/Field Services Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Bonnie DePriest, Silver Falls; Connie Albrecht, Silver Falls; Melissa McLaughlin, West Valley; Matt Dolphin, VP Field Services; Kim McCarrel, VP Public Lands. A written report was submitted by Bianca Chevalier (South Coast).

Central Oregon

Members have begun installing signs on 70 miles of equestrian trails out of Corral Flat in the Ochocos. The trails are used for an annual endurance ride, but only recently became "official" trails that can be signed. The chapter will hold an early-September work party to install colored diamonds on the trees to mark the various trails. Separately, the Forest Service is expected to release the final version of the Sisters Trail Additions and Realignments (STAR) project soon. If approved, the STAR plan will include new trails out of Whispering Pine Horse Camp and Sisters Cow Camp.

West Valley

Melissa met with Clay Downing, the new Parks Superintendent of the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District. He has been on the job for six months. The board has two new members. The board is getting pressure from local equestrians who want to keep the Bob and Crystal Rilee Horse Park for horses only. However, other people are pressing the board to open the park to bike use. OET has been staying out of the fray. However, Clay wants to settle the issue once and for all. He is contemplating community meetings to find common ground. He's also interested in using the park for events to educate folks who don't have horses. Melissa stressed that our members want safe places to ride. Most don't mind sharing the park, but safety on shared trails is a huge concern. Clay says there are some legal issues for him to untangle, so we should stay tuned for more developments.

Silver Falls

In September, the chapter will hold a memorial for Nancy Netwal, a long-time member and former chapter chair. The memorial will be held jointly with the Salem Saddle Club. Nancy's death is a huge blow. She is missed.

Members are also working on connecting with other groups to increase youth involvement, and they participated in the Silverton parade. The next meeting will be in September.

South Coast

The Army Corps of Engineers Jetty construction project is completed, and the North Spit Trails are fully accessible again after over two years. Chapter members rode the trails and found them to be in better condition than anticipated. The trails weren't blocked anywhere by downfall, but there is a good deal of brush trimming that needs to be done, which they'll discuss at the next Chapter meeting.

State Field Services

A community-sponsored work party will take place at Rilee Park, in Newberg, on August 16th, focusing on trail maintenance and brushing. Some OET members plan to attend.

