Riders' Roundup



Fun was had by all at 2026 OET Annual Meeting

February 2026 Annual Meeting

OET Tackles 2025 Public Lands Issues

By Kim McCarrel, VP Public Lands

As your VP of Public Lands, one of my responsibilities is to report on public lands issues at the OET Annual Meeting. At this year's meeting, we looked back at the most significant public lands issues OET faced in 2025. Now, here's the year in review:

Right after the start of the year, Forest Service and BLM staffs were slashed by mass firings (some employees were later reinstated), followed by huge early retirements. Not only did they lose significant numbers of employees, but some forests also kept their entire recreation staff, while others lost everyone. On top of this upheaval, the federal land managers were told that their focus for the future will be almost exclusively on fire, logging, mining, and drilling. This is obviously not a favorable development for recreation.

A bit later, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) revised its e-bike rules, over OET's strong objections. All classes of e-bikes are now allowed on any trail where mountain bikes are allowed. This may become an issue at Silver Falls, Stub Stewart, and Elijah Bristow State Parks. If you have an unpleasant encounter with an e-bike in a state park, please email vppublicslands@oregonequestriantrails.org. We want to make sure OPRD hears about any incidents.

On the Federal level, Congress considered and later passed the One Big Beautiful Bill. Initially, it had some provisions OET opposed, including a proposal to sell some public lands and severe cuts to the federal land managers' budgets. We wrote emails to Congress and urged OET members to do the same. (Oregon's Congressional delegation, except for Representative Cliff Bentz, opposed these measures, so we wrote letters to thank them. You can't say thank you too often!)

Ultimately, the public land sale provision was stripped from the bill, and when the budgets for the Forest Service, BLM, and the National Park Service were approved for the 2026 fiscal year, they were a little higher than in 2025. Yay!

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Tackling 2025 Public Lands Issues

Next, we lobbied the Oregon legislature in support of two bills: the Recreational Immunity Act and the Recreational Liability Act. The Recreational Immunity Act protects landowners who open their land to the public for recreation for free. This bill was passed in 2025, keeping some private lands open to equestrian use. The Recreational Liability legislation aimed to ensure that liability waivers like those we use at work parties and events will protect us. Unfortunately, this one didn't pass in 2025, despite our meetings, calls, and emails to Oregon legislators. As you'll see below, we're tackling this one again in 2026.

The next big development was that the Forest Service and BLM announced reorganizations and policy changes. Federal land managers are cutting staff – again- and closing some offices. They're also reducing the public's opportunities to comment on proposed actions under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The Forest Service is proposing to eliminate the Roadless Rule, which prohibits the construction of new roads on certain public lands (such as the area around Quinn Meadow and Todd Creek Horse Camps), opening these areas to logging and mining. We submitted several public comment letters to the land managers opposing the changes to NEPA and the Roadless Rule, and urging OET members to do the same.

Then there was the controversy over non-horse campers in ODF horse camps. Just before Labor Day, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) issued a press release encouraging the public to consider staying in the designated family campsites in horse camps if other ODF campgrounds were full. (Some ODF horse camps have both horse and non-horse sites.) Their press release was widely misquoted by news outlets, who encouraged the general public to use horse camps without distinguishing between horse and family sites. Unsurprisingly, this set off a firestorm in the equestrian community.

We contacted ODF, and they apologized for the confusion. But then they went on to show us how little use their horse camps get. While a regular ODF campground has about 54% occupancy, the horse camps get less than half of that. This lack of use is putting a financial strain on ODF. As a result of our discussions, ODF and the OET chapters near ODF horse camps are working together to identify "hybrid" campsites that can be reserved by either equestrians or non-horse campers. The chapters are also working to boost equestrian use by promoting the camps on Facebook, holding events at the camps to increase public awareness, and helping ODF to find volunteer camp hosts for the coming summer.

So far in 2026, we've again been lobbying the Oregon legislature to pass Recreational Liability Waiver legislation. We met with legislators in Salem, signed on to letters supported by stewardship groups statewide, submitted written testimony at several committee hearings, and urged our members to write to their congressional representatives to support the bill. By the time you read this, the 2026 legislative session will be over, and we will know whether this bill passed or not. Fingers crossed!

A common thread you'll notice throughout all this is that OET members stepped up to the plate when public lands issues arose. You wrote and called your Federal and State legislators. You showed up to meet with legislators at Trails Day in Salem. You met with ODF to address the horse camp issue. Because of your efforts, we're making progress on equestrian and public lands challenges. Thank you all for standing up for our public lands!

For my PowerPoint slides, I used ChatGPT to generate cartoons to illustrate my points. Some of those cartoons included errors that I found to be pretty funny, so I've shared them here. I don't think ChatGPT knows much about horses!



My horse wouldn't do this. Would yours?



My horse would do this. Definitely.



This one totally cracked me up. I don't think this is even physically possible for a horse to do.

President
Melissa McLaughlin



Another annual meeting in the books- it was fun to see so many people be recognized for their efforts throughout last year and enjoy really good speakers. Hope Flint, DVM, shared what she keeps in her first aid kits-small for day rides, medium for longer rides and large for the barn and trailer! Everyone has their favorite 10 essentials and its always a good idea to review your kits and replace shortages and old meds. Karla Hoggan had so many ideas about preparing ahead in case you need to evacuate your property.

March is OET Safety Month

A lot of our equipment for riding and trail work "sleeps" during the winter and now is a good time to get it out for inspection before hitting the trails and work parties. Maybe it's something you want to discuss at your next chapter meeting. Here are some ideas:

- Create a couple of accident scenarios to talk through solutions in smaller groups at your meeting. Hope Flint used this in her presentation- it gets people thinking!
- Check your tack for wear. Give it a good cleaning. How old is your riding helmet? Riding helmets should be replaced every 3 to 5 years, even if they haven't been in an accident, as materials degrade over time. Replace immediately after any fall or impact.
- Are your saw and clippers sharp? Did your gloves make it through the winter without getting moldy? Are your safety glasses and ear protection still in good shape?
- Trailer Safety and Maintenance: https://www.eqgroup.com/Pdf/Horse%20Trailer%20Checklist.pdf
- How is your fitness? If you're not sure then you might want to schedule a short ride to start with!
- Winter has been mild in the valley and the grass is growing fast. Take precautions when letting horses out on spring grass and be sure to get them (and yourself) into condition before heading for the mountains. Plan your trips and make reservations now!
- Is there a new member or two in your chapter that you can invite to ride with you? It's helpful to talk about horse and rider experience levels, what gaits everyone is comfortable with, the order in the ride and the technical aspects of a particular trail. Size of the group can be important too, and if your horse is a slow or fast walker. Determining compatibility before heading out is very helpful!

I am starting to plan some chapter visits for March and April. Please make sure your chapter's events are on the OET calendar. If you aren't sure how, just ask another chapter chair or Marty our webmaster. See you soon!

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.

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

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VP of Public Lands
Kim McCarrel



David Brooks, a conservative commentator for the New York Times, The Atlantic, and the PBS NewsHour, recently observed that the polarization in America today may be partially caused by our society's emphasis on the individual. Think of the Marlboro Man – strong, stoic, and independent – protecting his land and cattle all on his own. He didn't cooperate with his neighbors to get things done, he did them all himself.

Brooks noted that before the 1970s, our society placed a much greater emphasis on community, belonging, and supporting something bigger than ourselves. Back then, far more people belonged to a church, lived near extended family, or participated in a civic or fraternal organization than they do today. In Brooks' view, when we stopped belonging to these larger entities and began focusing more on satisfying our individual desires, we lost some of the sense of community that gives our lives meaning. Many people today no longer feel part of something greater than themselves. That makes us more likely to see others as different from ourselves and makes us less tolerant.

That got me thinking about the role that OET plays in our lives. For many of our members, OET provides a way to socialize with people who share our love of horses and the outdoors. It provides us with a sense of community. And because of our emphasis on trail work, fundraising, and preserving equestrian access to public lands, we feel part of something greater than ourselves.

Not every member feels this way, of course. But the more involved our members become with OET, the more we feel a sense of belonging to an organization that will leave a lasting legacy for our grandchildren and beyond.

Happy Trails, everyone!

VP Marketing Outreach
Collette Hayes



What a great banquet we had! Thank you all so much for coming and it sounds like the overall consensus was that folks had a good time, Yay!

We are planning the first ever multiple chapter Prize Ride to be held May 3rd. The Northwest chapter will be heading up the efforts with me, to get this started.

here are the details for those interested in participating or helping:

Planning Meeting Date: March 7th.

Location: Mountain Dale Cabins meeting hall at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park.

Virtual Option: The meeting will be held virtually for those who cannot attend in person.

Incentive for Volunteers: Individuals who help with the event will be eligible to camp for free until the campsites are full.

Meeting Agenda: During this first session, the group will determine the schedule, frequency, and locations for future planning meetings.

If you are interested in helping, please reach out as soon as possible or plan to join the meeting on the 7th.

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: https://meet.google.com/qka-edkd-kjq
Or dial: (US) +1 513-480-3889 PIN: 458 005 847#
More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/qka-edkd-kjq?pin=7303236274196

Or use this QR Code for call link

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.







VP of Field Service
Matt Dolphin



Getting Ready for 2026 Trail Season

It's time to saddle up for another great season with Oregon Equestrian Trails. Thank you to the volunteers across the state who help keep our trails open and ready for riders! Our annual State work party at Quinn Meadow is an OET tradition -- at a location steeped in OET history. We would love to have you join us!



Quinn Meadow Work Party – June 23–28, 2026

Join us for our annual trail work week at Quinn Meadow Horse Camp, located in the beautiful Deschutes National Forest near Mount Bachelor.

We'll spend the week improving camp and trail conditions—clearing brush, maintaining facilities, and keeping this historic horse camp in top shape—while also enjoying relaxed rides. Expect scenic meadows, nearby lakes and creeks, and classic Central Oregon views.

Come for a day, a few nights, or the entire week. Volunteers enjoy free camping, great company, campfire evenings, and the satisfaction of giving back to the places we love to ride.

Contact me to reserve your camping and corral space.

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daniwright@mckenziefeed.com

monday - friday 9-6 saturday 9-5 sunday 10-4

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Dates and Locations - OET State Board Meetings

April 11, 2026 — Roth Fresh Market Meeting Room, Salem

August 22, 2026 — Santiam Horse Camp, Gates, Highway 22

November 21, 2026 — Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD) Meeting Room, Eugene

January 23, 2027 — Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet. Roth's Fresh Market, Salem

January 24 2027 — 1st Qtr Meeting.Roth's Fresh Market, Salem

OET Annual Meeting & Banquet







What a fantastic weekend of celebration! The event featured service and appreciation awards, officer and chapter reports, and an impressive lineup of guest speakers.

A highlight of the weekend was the passing of the torch, as our outgoing President handed over the gavel and the president's belt buckle to our incoming President, Melissa McLaughlin.

Guests Barbara Schlitt, Pat & Rhonda Marquis, Valerie Lantz, Duane Lee, Wendy Zurcher, Becky Wolf, Frank DeWeese, Kim McCarrel, and Jodi & Darin Knutson were honored for their contributions. We also held a moment of silence to memorialize our departed members, Chris Foster and Lloyd Wilde.

Educational highlights included a special PowerPoint presentation from the South Coast Chapter, a talk by Ben Burns (Oregon Department of Forestry) on working with OET (see page 20), an equine first aid session by Dr. Hope Flint, DVM, and a presentation on livestock emergency preparedness by Karla Hoggan of the Oregon Livestock Council.

Attendees also enjoyed an array of brochures and maps to share, plus a lively raffle and auction. Congratulations to the Northwest Chapter for winning the Chapter Display award!









OET Tech Corner

Building Your own "Favorites" Map of Trailheads and Horse Camps

Hello fellow riders!

We have all been there: You haul out to a new spot and discover a fantastic, quiet trailhead. It has sturdy highlines, a clean vault toilet, and most importantly, plenty of turnaround room for a 30-foot gooseneck trailer.

You tell yourself, *"I need to remember this place for next summer!"* But by the time next season rolls around, you have completely forgotten the name of the camp or which specific logging road it was on.

Instead of keeping a messy paper list in the truck's glovebox, your smartphone has a built-in tool to solve this. It is called the **"Saved"** or **"Lists"** feature in Google Maps.

Creating Your Digital Trail Map

Think of this feature as dropping your own personal push-pins on a map. When you zoom in on Oregon, you will see all your favorite, trusted spots highlighted.

You can even organize these lists by region. For example, you might create a "Coastal Rides" list for those foggy summer escapes out near Lincoln City, and a completely separate "Eastern Oregon" list for your round trips to the Hood River Waterfront, Multnomah Falls, and horse camps out near Spray. If you are traveling with a group, you can even share these lists via a text message link so everyone in the OET convoy has the exact same fuel stops and meeting spots on their phone!

How to save a great spot:

1. **Find the Location:** Open the Google Maps app on your phone. Search for the trailhead, or if you are already standing there, just press and hold your finger on the blue dot that shows your current location.
2. **Tap "Save":** Look at the menu that pops up at the bottom of your screen. You will see a little bookmark icon labeled **Save**. Tap it.
3. **Create a Custom List:** Tap **+ New List** at the top. Name it something like "Good Horse Camps" or "Big Trailer Turnarounds."
4. **Add a Note:** This is the most important step! Google Maps lets you type a quick note about *why* you saved it. Type in: *"Great water access, pull-through parking, stay away in July due to mosquitoes."*

The "Where Did I Park?" Trick

Have you ever ridden out of a massive, sprawling staging area with multiple trailheads and logging road exits, only to return hours later and not know exactly where your rig is parked?

Before you mount up, open Google Maps, tap the blue dot showing your current location at the trailer, and select **"Save your parking."** Now, your truck and trailer will have a permanent yellow "P" pin on your map for the rest of the day, giving you an exact bullseye to ride back to.

The Crucial Step: Downloading the Map for the Backcountry

Saving a location doesn't help if you lose cell service before you get there. You need to save the map to your phone's hard drive *before* you leave Wi-Fi.

How to download an offline map:

1. Open Google Maps and tap your **Profile Picture (Avatar)** in the top right corner.
2. Tap **Offline maps** from the menu.
3. Tap **Select your own map**.
4. Use your fingers to zoom out and drag the map until your entire travel area is inside the blue rectangle.
5. Tap **Download**.

Tech Tip: These offline maps do expire and delete themselves after about a year to save storage space on your phone. Make it a habit to open your Offline Maps menu every spring and tap "Update" before riding season begins!

2026 Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Chapter	Event	Location	Information
March					
Mar 2	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Mar 6	12:00PM - 1:00PM	Mid-Valley	Work Party	https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82925333051	Join Colin Park (USDA) and Max Ragozzino, (ODA) for a summary of on-going efforts to use tiny stingless wasps to help control Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). View Full event Description Here: https://www.marionswcd.net/event/first-friday-biological-control-of-emeral-ash-borer-eab/
Mar 14	11:00AM - 3:00PM	Northwest	Ride	Milo McIver State Park, Estacada	NW Chapter Ride followed by no host lunch Questions? email: northwestoff@myoet.org
Mar 14	10:00AM - 2:00PM	Roseburg	Work Party	Mildred Kanipe Park, Oakland	Annual Trail Cleanup Info: roseburg@myoet.org
Mar 18	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Mar 21	8:00AM - 1:30PM	Public	Special	Clackamas Co. Fair & Event Center 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby	Clackamas County 4-H Tack Sale. New and used tack & other horse-related items. Parking $5, admission $1 per person.
Mar 28	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Forest Park Hwy 30 Saltzman	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699
Mar 28		Columbia County	Work Party	Camp Wilkerson	Remove last remaining wooden corrals
April					
Apr 6	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Apr 11	10:00AM - 2:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 628-400-8556 PIN 573 588 208#	State Board Meeting. Location tbd
Apr 15	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Apr 18	10:00AM - 11:00AM	North Valley	Work Party	Milo McIver State Park, Estacada	Contact Marty DeVall, northvalleyoff@oregonequestriantrails.org
Apr 24-26		West Valley	Work Party	Sheep Springs Horse Camp, Camp Sherman	Info: westvalley@myoet.org
Apr 25		North Valley	Ride	Milo McIver State Park, Estacada	Trail Boss: Brent Branch
Apr 25	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Nehalem Divide, CZ Trail	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699

May					
May 1-4		Northwest	Work Party	L.L. Stub Stewart State Park, Buxton	All chapter members are invited! Come Friday and stay thru Monday. Saturday - clean up horse camp and prep for the Sunday Prize Ride!
May 3		Northwest	Ride	L.L. Stub Stewart State Park, Buxton	Come join the prize ride! For more info contact Collette northwest@my oet.org
May 6	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
May 8-10		Northwest	Work Party	Reehers Camp	
May 9		Eugene	Ride	Elijah Bristow State Park Dexter	Trail Blazer Pace Fundraiser, Cosume Contest - Tentative
May 10		Central Oregon	Ride	Sisters Cow Camp	Mother's Day Duck Hunt. Contact Gayla Nelson darq69@gmail.com
May 20	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
May 22-25		North Coast	Campout	Northrup Creek Horse Camp 87644 Northrup Creek Rd Clatskanie	Celebrate 20 years of NCHC! Coastal woodlands camp with water, no electricity. Trails include hills and gravel roads, boots or shoes recommended. Dutch Oven potluck.
May 22-25	10:00AM - 1:00PM	North Valley	Campout	Graham Corral, Sisters	More info to follow
May 30	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Whipple Creek Washington	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699
June					
Jun 1	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Jun 6		Central Oregon	Ride	Sisters Cow Camp	Jimmerson Trail Poker Ride. Contact Gayla Nelson darq69@gmail.com
Jun 13		North Valley	Ride	Howards Mill	Trail Boss: Faith Roney
Jun 15-22		Roseburg	Work Party	Kelsay Valley Horse Camp	Trail Clearing. Contact Kyle Miller kyletheelkhunter@gmail.com
Jun 23-28		State	Work Party	Quinn Meadows Horse Camp, Bend	Help clear those awesome trails up at Quinn Meadows. Come for one day or come for all! It's up to you and it is free camping. Contact Matt as it gets closer. vpfieldservices@myoet.org
Jun 17	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Jun 27	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Stub Stewart State Park Buxton Trailhead	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699

Jun 27	9:00AM - 11:00AM	Roseburg	Ride	Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park, Oakland	Poker Ride. First hand out at 9:00 a.m., last hand out at 11:00 a.m. Lunch and drinks available by donation.
Jun 28		Mid-Valley	Ride	TE Ranch, Philomath	Jokers Wild Ride - Tentative midvalleyoff@myoet.org
July					
Jul 3-5		North Coast	Campout	Northrup Creek Horse Camp 87644 Northrup Creek Rd Clatskanie	Celebrate 20 years of NCHC! Coastal woodlands camp with water, no electricity. Trails include hills and gravel roads, boots or shoes recommended. Dutch Oven potluck.
Jul 6	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Jul 11		North Valley	Ride	Hardy Creek	Trail Boss: Brent and Sandy Branch
Jul 11		Roseburg	Work Party		Fish Packing. Tentative Date roseburgoff@myoet.org
Jul 12		Roseburg	Work Party		PCT Cleanup roseburgoff@myoet.org
Jul 15	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Jul 25	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Reehers	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699
August					
Aug 3	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/iqw-kjtu-tuc
Aug 8-9		South Coast	Campout	Wild Mare Horse Camp North Bend	
Aug 19	10:00AM - 1:00PM	Mt. Hood	Ride	Sandy River Delta https://maps.app.goo.gl/YLGsQksZcXwyjw7x5	Foot in stirrup 10:00 AM. Lunch to follow. Bring lunch and a chair. Contact Sara Faulkner, (971) 274-6516
Aug 22	10:00AM - 2:00PM	State	Meeting	Virtual. Google Meets or call in to 628-400-8556 PIN 573 588 208#	State Board Meeting. Stone Creek campground, Timothy Lake. Tentative.
Aug 29	10:30AM Start	Columbia County	Ride	Camp Wilkerson	Contact Trail Boss Nancy 503-875-4699

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



2026 Trails Day at the Capitol

By Mary Kamm, Eugene Chapter

Members of OET joined with the Oregon Trails Coalition (OTC) to advocate for recreational trails in Oregon on Monday, February 9th. Over 50 trail advocates from the hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and equestrian communities joined in for a day of training, networking, and lobbying for recreational trails. We divided up into small groups and talked with our local legislators about several pending bills that are of interest to equestrians, including:

- **Recreational Liability/Waivers:** This bill would align Oregon's recreational waiver laws with those of neighboring states, enabling enforcement of waivers, improving insurability, and reducing risk for non-profit organizations and small businesses that offer outdoor recreation and stewardship programming.
- **Lawful Corner Crossings:** This bill would let a person cross from one parcel of public land to another without committing a trespass if they cross private land. It also protects the private landowners from liability.
- **Protect Public Land:** Prohibits public bodies from assisting the federal government with the privatization of certain federally owned lands.

We also discussed the trails community's support for other pending legislation that, if passed, will:

- Increase snowmobile registration fees
- Make ODOT more accountable for its spending, improve its governance, and protect its funding for the Oregon Community Paths
- Raise hotel room taxes 1.25% and allocate these funds for wildlife protection
- Set clear definitions for micromobility devices like e-bikes, e-scooters, one-wheels, etc.

At each of our meetings with members of the Senate and the House, we introduced ourselves and the groups we represent, and shared our views on why these bills are important to recreational trail users throughout the state. We related local trail stories and answered the legislators' questions. OTC provided packets of information for us to leave behind after each communication session, reinforcing our messaging on legislation that impacts our recreational trail systems.

Representing the OET Eugene chapter were Robin Keeton, Cindi Richardson, and Mary Kamm. We were joined by Columbia County members Bob and Gloria Rice, incoming State President Melissa McLaughlin, and Central Oregon members Gayla Nelson and Kim McCarrel. It was an amazing day of learning, advocating, and supporting each other's shared interests. Hats off to the Oregon Trail Coalition for creating this event.

AKINS
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541-995-4884

WILDLIFE SAFARI

February 22nd, 2026
1st Qtr OET State Board Meeting Summary

In Attendance – Mark Lehnert, Mary Kamm, Gayla Nelson, Rhonda Marquis, Kim McCarrel, Brett Branch, Frank DeWeese, Marty DuVall, Bob Rice, Melissa McLaughlin, Valerie Lantz, Bonnie Depriest, Ashley Lertora, Gloria Rice, Collette Hayes, Camille Wood, Matt Dolphin, Melissa Wolf, Kimi Larkin, Kelly Beaston, Iva Socia. **Virtual Attendance** - Lynda Harding, Suzane Cathey , Mary Blankevoort, Leslye Wing, Susan High

Opening Remarks – Melissa McLaughlin

Melissa requested that chapter chairs engage in the OET financial discussions by attending Board meetings so as to be able to participate in decisions and actions of the board. Spend time on the OET state drive to look for resources. Read the bylaws and become acquainted with them.

Vice President, Outreach – Collette Hayes

The 2026 Annual membership dinner and auction grand total taken in was $5,690. 67 members attended. There will be a Stub Stewart campout and prize ride for all members, on May 3, 2026, to promote ODF state parks for equestrians. One of the prizes offered is a campout and guided trail ride. All chapters are invited to help in preparations. The first preparation meeting is March 7th, 11:30-1:30, lunch provided, at the Stub Stewart Meeting Hall, Mountain Dale Cabin Village (virtual attendance is also available). Please register with Collette.

Vice President, Public Lands – Kim McCarrel

Report presented at the annual membership meeting.(see front page)

Vice President, Field Services – Matt Dolphin

13,371 total volunteer hours reported for 2025.

Quinn Meadows State work party is tentatively scheduled for June 23-28. A number of corrals have settled and latches aren't latching. And some footing needs to be added to horse corrals. A welder will be found to fix gate latches.

See OET State Drive > A-Volunteer folder for information on getting started and understanding the columns of the OET volunteer hours form.

Treasurer – Susan High

Financial and budget reports were presented at the annual meeting.

Going forward the bank statement will be reconciled every month. Chapter income and expenses will be included in all future reports. A form will be provided to all Chapter Treasurers for reporting to the state treasurer.

To ensure each chapter has access to their chapters bank statements, the chapter treasurer must have an individual login on USBank website, which can then be connected to the chapters bank account.

Each chapter needs to remove any authorized signers on their bank account that no longer require access. Basically, only the current chair and current treasurer should have access.

Some chapters have separate grant accounts, that need to be accounted for and included in chapter and state financial reports.

A motion was passed to acquire a debit card for use by the marketing VP, with expenditure limits governed by current budget figures.

Finance committee – Melissa & Matt

A motion was passed that any time, as an organization, we open or close an account, it should be reviewed by the Finance Committee, thus creating better communication and quicker action concerning banking needs.

The finance committee was created a year ago and has been busy reviewing and improving OET's financial challenges - . Transitioning to a new treasurer; offering solutions to revenue dropping and reducing expenditures; streamlining chapter reporting; establishing financial safeguards; and correcting and updating government tax returns.

They are happy to report OET has a stronger foundation and is now in a stronger financial situation. We entered 2026 with $10,725 in our state grant fund and have a stronger 2026 budget with an increased revenue outlook.

A motion was considered to remove the finance committee and let the executive board take over finance responsibilities. After a well thought out discussion, a motion was passed that the finance committee include members of executive board and at least one other member of OET.

Past President Report – Frank DeWeese

Frank has concerns for continued access to forest and wilderness areas. He would like to see chapters step up and do a better job on keeping our access open by displaying and following Leave No Trace ethics. Equestrians may have the greatest impact on the wilderness and education is extremely important. BCHA is replacing LNT education with Light on the Land rules.

Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

https://www.oregonequestriantrails.org/oet-news/leave-no-trace/

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

Light on the Land Guidelines

https://www.bcha.org/light-on-the-land/

1. Plan Your Trip
2. Use Trails Responsibly
3. Minimize Camp Impacts
4. Minimize Wildlife Impacts
5. Preserve the Integrity of Wilderness, Front Country and Backcountry

Membership – Micheline Black

At the end of 2025, OET had 630 members. By Feb 1, 2026 the total was 425. It was strongly suggested that Chapter chairs look at the membership roster each month and reach out. We also could use a notification process, to let people know that their renewal was received.

Riders' Roundup – Leslye Wing

An issue was encountered that now that we have lowered the number of printed newsletters, we do not meet the requirements for non-profit discount postage. Currently the mailing list has 138 members and there needs to be 200 mailings to receive the special mailing rate. Collette and Leslye are handling how to keep our monthly printing/mailing costs at the minimum.

Drive Clean-up Committee

The OET State Drive has been significantly re-arranged and old files have been archived. It is not finished yet and clean-up work will continue in 2026.

Grant Requests

None submitted.

Discussion - Dates for BOD Meetings

To shorten summer break between meetings, the Annual Member Meeting and the first Board meeting was moved to January. Additionally, a new location may be sought for Annual Meeting next year. 2nd quarter meeting will be in April. Melissa has camp reserved at Stone Creek Horse Camp for an August meeting. Further investigation is necessary to see if good cell service is available to allow virtual attendance. A committee to look for alternative meeting locations was formed - Lynda Harding, Melissa Wolf, Ashley Lertora (chair), and Collette.

Request

Dick Woodfin, a long-time member of OET has asked Kimi Larken to propose to OET to purchase a "Organization Plaza Paver" to be placed in the courtyard of the new National Conservation Legacy and Education Center building in Missoula Montana. The project is being constructed and to be completed mid-to- late summer 2026. Motion was passed to donate $500 for an 8x8 brick, in which Frank has offered to contribute $100 towards the paver. The following will be inscribed on our paver:

Oregon Equestrian Trails
"Stewards of our Public Lands"
Est. 1970

For more information regarding the Forest Service History Museum visit https://forestservicemuseum.org/

Officer-Elect Suggestion

Suggestion was made that a new officer-elect follows the current officer for a year to learn the duties of a position, before acting as new officer. Suggestion to do this at chapter and state positions.

Meeting Microphone

A motion was passed to purchase an Owl equivalent (360 degree camera/speaker/microphone) for our business meetings (expenditure up to $700). This is needed so that virtual attendees can accurately hear all voices and catch every word at board meetings.

Crystal Rilee Park

The OET board made a decision, in a previous year, to not take a stand on the issue on whether to allow or prohibit bikes on current horse/hiker only trails at Crystal Rilee Park. OET is not expressing an opinion, as we may offer consideration of multi-use trails. Melissa stated that all statements made by OET members on any FB posting, and letters written, must stop acting as a representative of OET. You can express your own opinion, but not speak for OET. Melissa is having to deal and cleanup some current bad publicity. The Crystal Rilee Park is being managed by a board that can change every 2 years, and this could potentially be an ongoing issue. Kim (as an individual) will speak with the CRPRD board chair to discuss separate trails for horses and bikes, showing an example used by trails at Peterson Ridge.

Three day Search for Lost Horses finds them silent in the Willows

Reprinted from post by Kimi Leigh Larkin, South Coast Chapter Chair - Posted on Facebook -OET Members Page

On February 20, OET member (and the South Coast Chapter Public Lands Officer), Bianca Chevalier, had an accident out on the dunes at the North Spit on the coast near North Bend while riding with friends. One friend from out of state, Staci, was riding one of Bianca's horses. Both Bianca and Staci were thrown after both horses spooked, who promptly took off into a thick wooded area.

Bianca and Staci were both wearing quality helmets and air vests. Staci was hurt and had to be hauled out of the dunes via helicopter. Many agencies were involved: Coos County Sheriff office/deputy, Hauser Fire, US Coast Guard. Bianca chose to stay with her friend until help arrived. Staci ended up with a concussion, but was aok.



However, Bianca had to walk out without her beloved endurance horses.

It was getting dark. Agencies and people continued to scour the area for the horses without success.

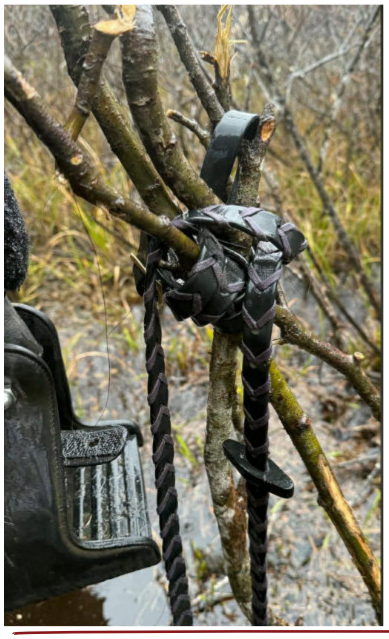
I (Kimi) am an OET member and a Coos County Mounted Sheriff's Posse (CCMSP) member. CCMSP organized a search at 7:00AM Saturday. We all chose an area to search. I brought an additional horse for Bianca to ride to join in the search

Our search on Saturday did not locate the horses. About dusk, we called the search off until the morning.

We gathered back up Sunday morning. We had more horse community members and several SoCoOET members in the search Sunday. Jeni joined us on our search. She is educated and experienced in tracking. Also, mine and Bianca's ferrier, Tejun, decided that he would hike in. He too is experienced in tracking. He had an idea of where he thought they might be. Jeannie Fertig, also an OET member joined in the Sunday search. Jeannie has been riding the area for half of a century. Yep, that many years.

Jeannie and Jeni headed to the area that Jeannie had a strong feeling of where they could be. It was in a THICKLY bushed area. Me and my friend, Gayle, headed out about 15 minutes behind Jeannie and Jeni.

About 1 hour and 45 minutes into the search I got a call from Jeni saying that THEY FOUND THE HORSES!!!! They were standing in a willow thicket surrounded by dense shore pines up to their hocks in cold water with their reins tangled in the willows. And, they were ok.





We're sure this is where they were the whole time. They were silent and did not move. We all were very close to that area, all three days of searching. Yet, the horses made no noise. Jeni walked in thigh-high water and got them untangled. They were UNHURT!!, but cold and scared.

Jeni could not find a path out and had to just barge through the willows to get back to her horse. Jeni and Jeannie ponied the two horses out of the willows and shore pine thicket. Gayle and I were also in the area and ran into them

on their way out. I called Tejun. He hiked out and went and got Bianca and met us at the sand road.

We ponied the horses back to the boat ramp where we were parked. Bianca had a vet there ready to check her horses and they were cleared by the vet.

It was so very emotional. So many tears, laughter, tears of joy and exhaustion. It was a grand celebration.

This was the first time I've ever been on a search. I learned MANY valuable lessons from everyone in this search. I am now reassessing what I have at the "ready" should this happen again.

I also learned that nothing is how you think it should be. Other horses winny'd near them a few times. Her horses never called back. I think almost everyone was within a few hundred yards from them at some point. It took trudging through the thick brush to find them. They didn't go far. Maybe a mile.

I learned first hand that this could happen to anyone, at any time, no matter how experienced one is.

I am so very happy and relieved that the horses and riders were ok. Bianca is extremely relieved her boys are home.

The amazing first responders and horse community we have is what made this incident end on a good note. I want everyone involved to know how appreciated they are and how very important they all were to this happy ending.

Note from Bianca:

THANK YOU Kimi for your support and for bringing the nice horse I rode the first day of the search. What I learned from this that I'd like to share is:

1. **Have a GOOD long range tracking device on your horse.** I had Apple Air tags on both horses but they are useless unless you are super close to the horses!

2. **Wear a good loud bell on your horse.** I usually wear a bell when riding alone but didn't think I needed it when riding with two other people...big mistake!

3. **Wear a good helmet and a safety vest.** I've owned this horse for over four years and this was the first time I was thrown from him. So you never know when it might happen.

4. **Always wear a breast collar on your saddle.** I have unfortunately seen horses run off and saddle slip underneath them causing more issues. My horses had their saddles on for almost three days and saddles had not moved.

I am so overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and the number of riders that showed up every day to help, even in the rain. And the Fire Dept Search/Rescue team that drove in me around in their ATV for hours even when it got to be dark at night.











OET Chapters

Chapter	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Contact
Central Oregon Chapter	First Tuesday Doors Open: 6:00 p.m. Meeting: 6:30 p.m.	Pleasant Ridge Hall 7067 SW Canal Redmond, OR	Gayla Nelson centraloregon@oregonequestriantrails.org **(541) 549-9177**
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	*New Day!* Third Tuesday Speaker: 6:30PM Meeting: 7:00 p.m.	EPUD Meeting Room 33733 Seavey Loop Rd. Eugene	Mary Kamm eugene@oregonequestriantrails.org **(607) 434-5295**
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) 913-2943**
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	Melissa Wolf northwest@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 550-2048**
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) 981-8124**
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	Kim Grabill westvalley@oregonequestriantrails.org **(503) 538-0679**

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

Thanks to organizer Camille Wood, our February meeting featured a presentation by members sharing what they pack in their saddle bags. Emergency preparedness was the focus, with whistles, vet wrap, and first-aid items being the most common supplies mentioned by the four presenters.

We also hosted a presentation from the local Pet Evacuation Team, an all-volunteer group that cares for animals in crisis, primarily at the fairgrounds. Those interested in helping during a crisis can visit their website or call their phone number to offer services and equipment, such as horse trailers and temporary equine housing.

Trail work continues nearly unabated with the lack of precipitation this winter. Several work parties are installing "No bikes" signs on the Peterson Ridge trails near Sisters.



Upcoming work parties include efforts at Corral Flat in the Ochoco Mountains, and Pat Marquis is leading the clearing and signing of 27 miles of new, legal Forest Service horse trails out of Whispering Pine and Sisters Cow Camp. In the future, he will work on developing 35 additional miles out of the Sheep Springs and Three Creek horse camps.

On February 7, Rhonda Marquis spearheaded an equestrian partnership meeting involving the Forest Service, BLM, OET, and BCHO volunteers to exchange information regarding new regulations and projects for trails and horse camps.

Additionally, our chapter historian, Camille Wood, displayed the beautiful print copies of the chapter yearbook she created. She also reported that our Facebook page has received a large number of hits.

Suzanne Heskett has organized a "Duck Hunt" with rubber duckies on the Marquis Trail out of Sisters Cow Camp for Mother's Day, featuring prizes of $100, $75, and $50. We invite you to "come over the hill" to enjoy a spring ride with us in May, as well as our June 6th Poker Ride.

Columbia County Chapter

It has been a relatively slow month, but we are grateful to our steadfast meeting attendees and look forward to better weather and increased participation.

We discussed the annual OET meeting at Roth's Event Center, scheduled for February 21, 2026, which will feature a presentation on horse first aid and information regarding Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) horse camps.

Bob, Gloria, and Cassandra attended the Oregon Trails Coalition meeting at the Capitol building on February 9, 2026. The day was productive, with about 90 trail advocates in attendance. An important topic of discussion was improving protections via recreation waivers to guard against frivolous lawsuits.

We are planning a work party for March 28 to remove the final two wood corrals at Camp Wilkerson, weather permitting. Additional maintenance ideas include adding log rounds for mounting blocks along trails and repainting old wood Liahona trail signs to help preserve trail history. We plan to install new metal corrals in April to prepare for a wonderful summer of horse camping.. Come on down to help and enjoy spring at the camp.

We are also continuing regular activities, such as the PUD truck wash and participation in upcoming community events. Please note that starting in June, the horse camp will remain open during park events

Eugene Chapter

After all those sunny or just foggy days we should have known the rain gods would visit our Valentines Day Ride/ Party at Elijah Bristow. Thanks so much to the Mid Valley Chapter for coming down for their group ride in the drizzle!It was a terrific opportunity to meet members of another chapter. We enjoyed lovely tea sandwiches courtesy of Robin Keeton, along with caramel candies and hot beverages to help us stay warm.

Our February meeting began with a really interesting presentation by Deseri Rousseau on equine body work. Rather than talk about adjustments and what goes wrong she focused on the anatomical aspect and how the horse's body functions as a whole. Lots of good information for us to process and relate to our own horses.

Three of our members attended the Trail Days in Salem and really appreciated how people from all over came together to inform legislators. It is so important. We discussed the membership exodus our chapter is experiencing. We really need to work on touching back with last year's members. Having interesting speakers at the meetings should help.

Della Webb is still working hard on keeping Mt. Pisgah's North Bottomlands accessible to equestrians. She recently walked out a map for the park to mow to help hikers and equestrians know where to ride and where not to. They came up with a 2.95 mile track. Just right for a little hack around the flatland.

Our next big job is to plan our Mother's day event. It will likely be a little more low key than the TrailBlazer Pace but just as much fun in our lovely park.

Hope lots of folks can make it to the state meeting!

Mt. Hood Chapter

In addition to preparing for the Annual Meeting and planning activities for 2026, our Chapter has again focused on challenges for horses and riders at the Thousand Acres (Sandy River Delta) in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area,.

We continue to try and increase awareness of the presence of horses at this site, as it is clearly designated as "multi-use" and "shared trails". Dave Adams, with the approval and assistance of the Forest Service, has installed additional "YIELD TO" signs on several popular trails. Here's hoping!



North Coast Chapter

We will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Northrup Creek Horse Camp by offering three camping weekends: Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day weekends.Our chapter will provide members as hosts for each weekend, and a poster has been created to highlight the festivities.

Collette Hayes from the NW chapter is going to come and present their chapter ride which is in May. One of the prizes is a free weekend campout at Northrup with a guide. We expect to finalize our annual activity schedule soon.

Northwest Chapter

The Northwest Chapter is pleased to announce we now are hosting monthly weekday and weekend rides at local trailheads. Check the OET calendar for the latest ride updates.

We have been busy partnering with the Outdoor Service Guides for a collaborative cleanup and campout at Reehers Camp in May. A collective of 50 plus scouts and OET members are looking to tidy communal camping spaces as well as clear brush off the trails. Reciprocal education and fun should abound with scouts offering a campfire skit following our hard work!

Continuing our partnerships, several chapters are joining us as we host a prize ride at L.L. Stub Stewart State Park on May 3rd! All are welcome; come ride with us!

Roseburg Chapter

The Roseburg OET is having its annual spring trail cleanup at Mildred Kanipe Park on Saturday, March 14th. Please join us! The start time is 10:00 AM. Wear long sleeves and gloves and boots. Bring loppers or pruners or weed eater. Bring a lunch. For more info contact Kyle at kyletheelkhunter@gmail.com

Silver Falls Chapter

Spring cleanups are being scheduled for Silver Falls State Park, Santiam Horse Camp, and Willamette Mission State Park. Willamette Mission rides are scheduled for the third Sunday of every month, with boots in stirrups at 10:00 AM.

Later in the summer, three special rides planned: one to Perrydale Trails, one to the beach and one to Silver Falls. Our annual solstice ride at Willamette Mission will be June 21. We will participate in the Davenport and Pet parades in Silverton in August.

We have a booth at Canby Tack Sale with lots of tack to sell March 21. Volunteers will set up Friday night, man the booth Saturday and then tear down. Much of the tack belonged to our past president Nancy Netwell, who passed last year. Our current president, Bonnie, has cleaned and organized it all for the sale.

BCHO invited our chapter to join them and ODF for a work party to clear trails at Santiam Horse Camp that were affected by storms. Many trees are down on the trails. We will set dates for the work parties in April.

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FAX 485-4724

Camp Establishment and Usage

Reprinted from BCHA "Light on the Land" Brochure

Minimalizing camping impacts are challenging, and careful consideration is required to multiple components.

Camp Site Selection

- Good campsites are found, not made.
- Select established sites, or durable surfaces.
- Pick a location with water, grass/feeding area, and a good containment location.
- Observe camping setbacks from lakes, streams, trails, other campsites, and historic and cultural sites and structures.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas previously impacted.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.
- Do not picket stock in wet meadows.
- Tie stock so they cannot chew on the tree bark or eat the leaves of woody vegetation. A high line between trees is recommended. Use tree saverstraps to protect trees.
- Fill in all holes and return all trampled areas to their natural state.



If you love trail riding and enjoy the camaraderie of camping & riding new trails with other horse enthusiasts, **Endurance Riding may be a sport for you!** Many of our PNER Rides are now offering Introductory (Trail) Rides. Introductory Rides are designed for riders who would like to sample the "endurance" experience on a short course. The horse will stand for vet check exams and the rider will follow a flagged course with other riders traveling at various speeds on courses ranging from eight to twelve miles.

www.pner.net • facebook.com/groups/pnerrocks

Disposing of Camp, Human and Stock Waste Properly

- Pack out everything you pack in.
- Do not throw left over food into campfires. It won't burn completely and is an attractant to bears and other animals.
- Deposit solid human waste in holes dug at least six inches deep at least one hundred feet from water, camp, and trails (check regulations for distance). Cover and disguise/naturalize the hole when finished.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, use tiny amounts of biodegradable soap.
- Rake or scatter manure when breaking camp, especially around highline.





February 2026 Annual Meeting
OET and ODF Partnership

At our Annual Meeting, Ben Burns, Recreation Facilities Manager for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) made a presentation outlining working with OET at ODF Horse camps.

OET / ODF History

OET and ODF have been partners since the 1990s. OET helps ODF with work parties, grand funding, letters of support, forest cleanups, events, construction projects and more.

Chapters & Campgrounds

The four equestrian campgrounds ODF manages are:

Reehers Camp Horse Camp - Northwest Chapter

Stagecoach Horse Camp – Northwest Chapter

Santiam Horse Camp - Silver Falls Chapter

Northrup Creek Horse Camp – North Coast Chapter

Ben spoke about each of these campgrounds, where they are located and what they have within and nearby. See attached maps.

Challenges

- **Camp Host Acquisition** – ODF struggles to get qualified camp hosts across the board but mainly in our equestrian campgrounds
- **Revenue / Attendance** – Due to agency and program budgets, revenue is always a concern and attendance goes hand in hand with that. We see extremely low attendance in our equestrian sites noted by this chart which shows the 2025 season numbers:

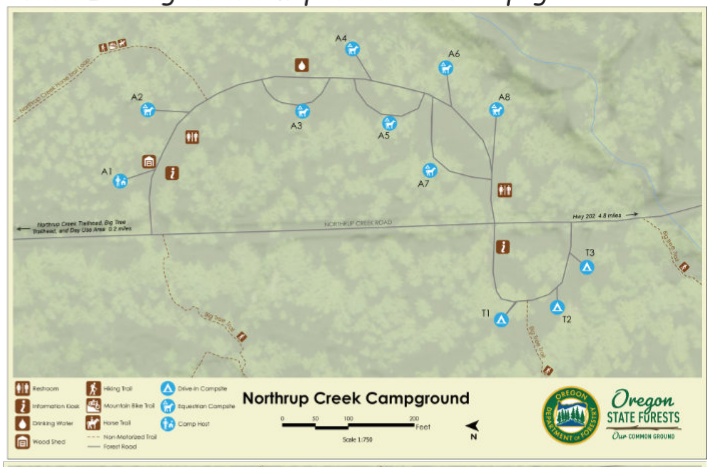
Campground	# of Avail Nights	Occupancy	Percent
Northrup Creek Horse Camp	770	153	19.87%
Reehers Camp Horse Camp	990	146	14.75%
Stagecoach Horse Camp	990	20	2.02%
Santiam Horse Camp	990	121	12.22%

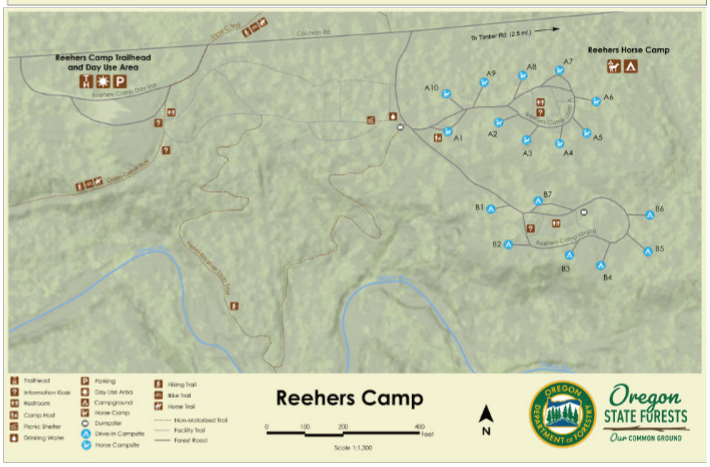
- **Maintenance** is a hard thing for ODF program due to low staffing. Current trail systems and facilities are hard to maintain which makes it hard to justify new trails and facility updates.

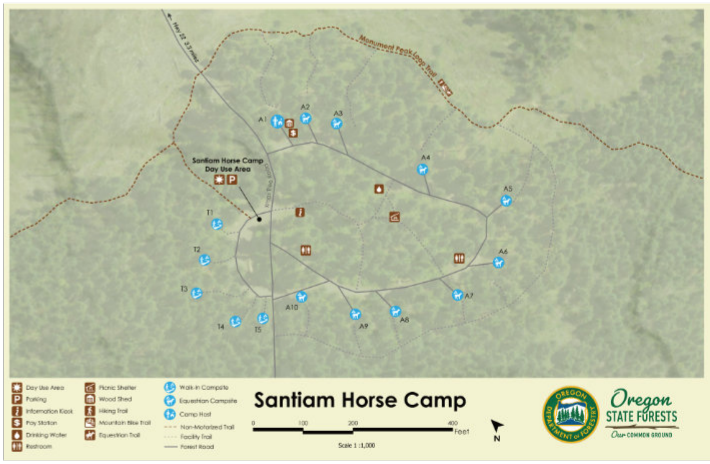
Changes and Improvements

- **Increased Outreach** – ODF is trying to find more and new ways of outreach to obtain camp hosts. OET has plans to help with this as described at the annual meeting.
- **Hybrid "horse optional" sites** – Strategic sites at each equestrian campground have been selected as horse optional sites upon reservation in attempts to increase attendance.

NOTE: Stagecoach map is on the next page



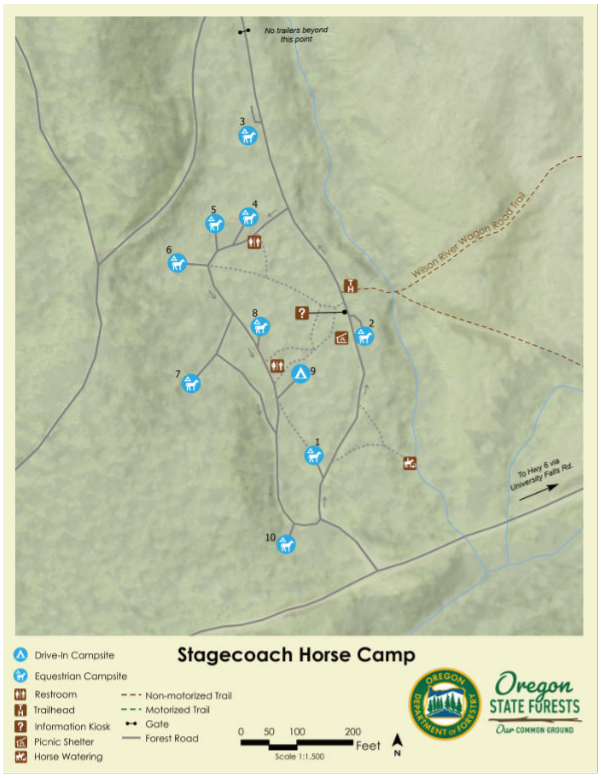




- **Facilities / trails split** – The REI (Recreation, Education and Interpretation) program made a split between Trails and Facilities to better focus on each facet and have dedicated staff for each.

Future

ODF is Looking forward to continued and enhanced partnership with OET and being able to provide facility and trail improvements through this partnership.



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Philomath, OR 97370
PH: 541-929-3161
Fax: 541-929-6352
Email:
outwest2017@yahoo.com

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TOKLAT®

MULE SKINNERS PRIZE RIDE

Saturday, May 30th 2026

Sign-up Starts @ 8:30 am | Last Rider Out by 11:30 am

REBERS RIVERSIDE
23100 NW FLYING M RD
YAMHILL, OR 97148

Tickets:
$5 per ticket, or
$20 for 5 tickets

Riders MUST Purchase a Raffle Ticket to Participate.

Day Parking Available @ Rebers Riverside & Flying M Ranch.
Vehicles will be directed where to park depending on capacity.
Parking Fees: $5/Vehicle + $5 per horse/mule.

"Scenic Views, Raffles, Prizes, and More!"

Trot on over to **Rebers Riverside Ranch** on **Saturday, May 30th** to join the **Mule Skinner's Club** on a **9 mile trail** filled with scenic water-crossings, thick forest terrain, quick elevation changes as well as natural and man-made obstacles. Make sure to giddy-up back to the barn in time for **raffle prize giveaways that begin at 3:30pm**--you won't want to miss out!

ELKHORN BBQ
North Spit Beach Cleanup

March 14th 10-2PM

ELKHORN BBQ will provide lunch at 12PM at the end of the Transpacific Hwy.

Garbage bags and trash grabbers all provided!



Special thanks to
Les's Sanitary
for donating the Dumpsters.

NORTHRUP CREEK
HORSE CAMP



Come ride with us!

GROUP HORSE CAMPING TRIPS

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Northrup Creek Horse Camp with North Coast Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) this summer! Enjoy miles of maintained trails over streams, through forests, and along logging roads; plus a small obstacle course.



MAY 22-25	**Memorial Weekend** Dutch Oven Potluck
JULY 3-5	**July 4th Weekend** Parade, Bunko, BBQ Potluck
SEPT 4-7	**Labor Day Weekend** Scavenger Hunt Ride

Campsites are limited and require advanced reservation online at www.tinyurl.com/NorthrupCreek

Clatsop State Forest, NW Oregon

Have a question? Email **Ashley.Lertora@gmail.com**

FB Group: North Coast Oregon Equestrian Trails

Coastal Horse Camping



OREGON EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

OET Campout hosted by South Coast Chapter

August 8 & 9, 2026
Wild Mare Horse Camp in Siuslaw National Forest, North Bend, OR

Facilities: 12 horse sites with corrals, potable water, vault toilets, picnic tables, firepit

Wild Mare Horse Camp is nestled within the scenic Siuslaw National Forest near North Bend, Oregon. The camp offers a unique opportunity to explore the southern end of the Oregon Dunes and the beautiful Oregon coast beach. Campers are invited to ride through trails among shore pines, Douglas fir, and huckleberry that lead out to the Pacific Ocean. Enjoy camping under a canopy of alder and spruce, while experiencing the spectacular landscape of the Oregon coast.

Reservations: recreation.gov

Information:	**Valerie Lantz**	**Kellie Beaston**	**Kimi Larkin**
	541-290-8194	**775-221-5535**	**541-321-2092**

SAVE THE DATE!

May 3rd, 2026

Stub Stewart Prize Ride

Our First Annual Oregon Equestrian Trails Ride featuring several of our Northwest Oregon area Chapters!

Stewart Stub Park Management have been working hard and will be ready for you to ride these rerouted as well as some new trails!

We'll also share details about Camp Hosting and other fun rides planned for the 2026 season!

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS AT:
WWW.OREGONEQUESTRIANTRAILS.ORG
EVENTS/NEWS
ALSO IN OUR RIDERS ROUNDUP NEWSLETTER

Questions-Email: vpoutreachoet@gmail.com

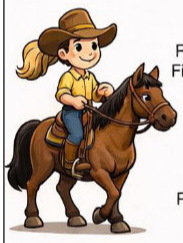
Exciting Prizes Await

Come join us for a

Poker Ride

at Sisters Cow Camp in Sisters, Oregon

Saturday June 6th





Registration starts Saturday morning at 9:00 AM
First rider out at 9:30 AM, last rider out at 11:00 AM

First poker hand is $15
Additional hands are $5 each

CASH AND PRIZES TO WINNERS

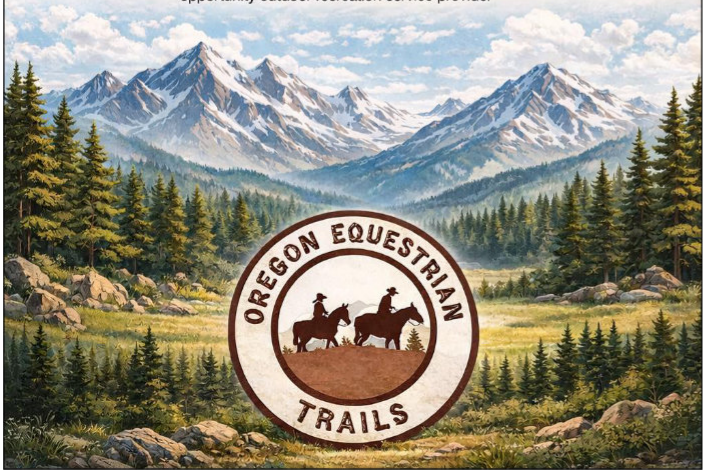
Proceeds go to the Central Oregon Chapter of Oregon Equestrian Trail's Mission - clearing trails, maintaining horse camps, and representing rider's concerns using public lands

Lunch available for purchase
For more information contact
Brenda Coats 541-280-3849

Directions to Sisters Cow Camp

*Go West out of Sisters on Hwy 242, go 1 mile, turn **left onto FS road** 15. Go about 2 miles and turn left at the sign for **Sisters Cow Camp**.*

*OET operates under a special use permit with the Deschutes National Forest, who is an equal opportunity outdoor recreation service provider





POKER RIDE

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2026
Mildred Kanipe Park • 16513 Elkhead Road
Oakland Oregon

Fun for the family!!!

First Rider out at 9:00AM
Last Rider out 11:00AM
Cost: $5.00/Hand or 5 Hands $20.00
Prize Drawings and Silent Auction
Cash Awarded to Winning Hands
Concessions Available

Youths under the age of 18 must have a parent/legal guardian on site.
Helmets are recommended It is preferred that a responsible adult accompany youths on the trails.

DIRECTIONS: North on I-5, Take exit 138 towards Oakland, merge onto Sterns Lane. Drive 1.4 miles and turn left at S Front Street (OR99).Drive 2 miles, turn right on Locust St (becomes Diver Valley Road) Drive 4 Miles and turn left on Elkhead Road. Drive 2.7 miles to entrance-Equestrian parking on left.
SORRY NO DOGS PLEASE!!!!

Hosted by the Roseburg Chapter of the Oregon Equestrian Trails
Oregon Equestrian Trails, formed in 1970, 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

Need more info: Contact Rhonda Hjort: *541-430-3453*

Camping Sites With Corrals Reserve at:
https://properties.camping.com/Mildred-Kanipe-Campground/Reservations

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Oregon Equestrian Trails Mid-Valley Chapter

26th Annual
Jokers Wild Poker Ride

Sunday June 28, 2026



TE Ranch, Philomath, OR

North on 9th St. go 1 mile, Left on Heritage Hills Road, then follow the signs.

$10 per hand or 3 for $20
(Minimum one hand per rider)
Less than 13 yrs. ride free
Minors (under 18 yrs. old) need a parent or guardian signature.

First Rider out 9AM * Last Rider Out 12 PM * Awards at 2:30 PM
No Dogs, PLEASE!

Great Prizes! Top hands pick first, drawing for the rest!
50/50 Raffle too!

Food Available for Purchase from

J&C BBQ and Catering

For more information email PokerRideInfo@gmail.com **Or call Meg 541-609-1075**

Facebook.com/OregonEquestrianTrailsOETMidValleyChapter

Special Thanks to our 2025 Corporate Sponsors

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- Les Schwab - Philomath
- Out West Farm & Ranch
- Philomath Rental
- Gathering Together Farm
- Beggs Tires - Albany
- The Tack Box
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- Meetin Place
- Vinwood Tap Houe
- Meetin Place

10117 SE Sunnyside Rd. Ste. F
PMB 101
Clackamas, OR 97015

March 2026 - Riders' Roundup

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

Saddle Up at Kelsay Valley Horse Camp - Fifty Miles of Newly Cleared Trails Await

By Kyle Miller, Roseburg Chapter

Howdy fellow equestrians! I hope you are cleaning and oiling your saddles in anticipation of riding this summer. Speaking of riding, please consider exploring the beautiful trails surrounding the Kelsay Valley Horse Camp because for the first time in many years most of the fifty miles of trails will be cleared of fallen trees and brush. We plan to clear the trails at the start of the riding season.

Here's the 2026 trail clearing plan. Grab your saddle horn and hang on! Starting on Monday, June 15th, a Northwest Youth Corp crew will work for five days. Next, starting on Tuesday, June 16th, we have tentatively scheduled Source One Serenity Veterans to start working for a week or more. Finally arriving on Thursday, June 19th, the awesome members of the Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon's Emerald Empire chapter will be clearing trails throughout the weekend.

Closing out the trail clearing season, another Northwest Youth Corp crew will return for another week of trail clearing for the week of October 5th through the 9th. Jon Hjort and I will be providing packing support with our teams of mules and horses. It will be a wild ride for the week with lots of miles in the saddle.





Last season we cleared approximately 950 logs out of about thirty-five miles of trails. Depending on how many trees fall this winter, due to wind storms and snow storms, we hope to get all fifty miles of trail cleared this season. We will be re-clearing some trails again this year and clearing others for the first time in many seasons.

As the rains continue and your anticipation grows, make your camping reservations on Recreation.gov for a fabulous trip to Kelsay Valley Horse Camp.

If you want lots of time to ride the newly cleared trails, spend a free and relaxing week at Kelsay Valley in your camper. Camp host slots are available July 5-12, July 26-August 2, and August 2-9. A pull-through site with canopy and horse stalls is provided. Duties include light maintenance, checking for permits, answering questions, and coordinating with the Recreation Supervisor and law enforcement personnel. Contact Janet Miller (trailgaits@gmail.com, 541-440-0450) for information on becoming a camp host.

For more information about Kelsay Valley Horse Camp and the surrounding endless miles of trails or if you want to lend us a hand clearing trails, give me a holler. My cell number is 541-733-0583, and my e-mail address is KyleTheElkHunter@gmail.com. I hope to see you out on the trails this summer!



So check your cinches and saddle up!

Riders' Roundup March 2026 24