

Reference: Lantz, Valerie, Bob Zybach, and Kim McCarrell 2019. "Elliott Forest: Elkhorn Ranch Historic Pack Trail Network," Email correspondence, May 20-June 4. Oregon Websites and Watersheds Project, Inc., Philomath, Oregon.: 5 pp.

From: Valerie Lantz

Subject: Re: Elliott Forest: Elkhorn Ranch Historic Pack Trail Network

Date: June 4, 2019 at 12:31:53 AM PDT

To: Bob Zybach <ZybachB@orww.org>

Cc: Tasha Livingstone, David Gould, Jerry Phillips, Kim McCarrel, Ruby Shea, Altier, Kainoa J, Morrison, Kelsey C, Sebastian S Bartlett, Black-Priest, Hunter L, Harvey, Amelia M, Koby Etwiler, Jones, Gabriella M, Fitzgerald, Stephen Arthur, SINGLETON Ryan, Sam Schwarz, Anne Farrell-Matthews

Bob Zybach,

I see that I have some exploring to do!

Valerie Lantz

On Mon, Jun 3, 2019 at 11:24 PM Bob Zybach <ZybachB@orww.org> wrote:
Hi Valerie:

We are having our final four-hour Forest Recreation workshop tomorrow for the current version of the Elliott Draft Forest Recreation Plan, but we discussed equestrian trails today during regular class time. We will definitely focus from the beginning on horse trails, biking, ATV, and hiking trails during next year's class, beginning in mid-April, and all of the help and guidance you can provide will be greatly appreciated! Maybe a brief horseback ride for students during one of our field trips . . . ?

You will see there are a ton of people copied on this, including SWOCC students, instructor Livingstone, your OET associates, and David Gould, whose family has owned and occupied the (currently five-acre) Elkhorn Ranch site along the West Fork for 135 years. That location, and a nearby mud runner's camp, would make an excellent staging area for a horse camp, and David has expressed a strong interest in that idea. Historic pack trails that used to be based at the Elkhorn could be easily re-opened in all directions for exclusive use of horses. In addition, of the 550 miles of rocked road in the Elliott, we learned today that only 150 or so are

needed for good vehicle access, leaving 400 miles of old, historic, road bed that can easily be developed into horse, foot, and bike trails — and readily reopened as needed for management and emergency purposes. Many of the timber sales were cat-logged and those locations, too, can often be converted into trails.

Question: Is it possible to develop a horse trail from Jerry Phillips Reserve, at the Silver Creek headwaters, to Golden and Silver Falls? The route does cross Weyerhaeuser property, so that would be the big question.

I look forward to meeting and working together in the coming year!

Bob

On May 21, 2019, at 10:13 PM, Valerie Lantz wrote:

Bob and Team,

I look forward to helping whenever you need me.

Valerie Lantz, OET member and nearby neighbor of the Elliot Forest.

On Tue, May 21, 2019 at 7:21 PM Bob Zybach <ZybachB@orww.org> wrote:
Hi Valerie:

Very much appreciate your offer. Just got back to Cottage Grove after a field trip to Loon Lake. All three students and their instructor, Tasha Livingstone, are copied on this. Kai Altier is the lead writer on the Roads & Trail section and we discussed your email today. This year we could use some of your basic recommendations so far as the Elliott is concerned, and next year we could further develop and elaborate on your thoughts.

Bob

On May 21, 2019, at 11:09 AM, trail.horse.rider14 wrote:

Bob Zybach,

I'm Kim's friend who lives near Lakeside. I'm also an Oregon Equestrian Trails member. My interest in potential trails on the Elliot Forest is long term. As a long

time equestrian I would like to be a resource for the students. Please contact me at trail.horse.rider14@gmail.com

Valerie

----- Original message -----

From: Bob Zybach

Date: 5/21/19 9:10 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: Kim McCarrel

Cc: Ruby Shea, Valerie Lantz, Altier, Kainoa J, Jones, Gabriella M, Black-Priest, Hunter L, Tasha Livingstone

Subject: Re: Equestrian interest in Elliott Forest

Thanks Kim:

Your reply answered almost all of my questions, and I think I can answer some of yours!

I've copied the three SWOCC students who are working on the "Roads and Trails" portion of this year's Elliott State Forest draft recreation plan. Most of the information in your email is just what they need for their one-paragraph or so Recommendations part of their report.

Your friend is correct about the state of the roads: curving, narrow, and all rocked except Highway 38 and the road to Loon Lake. And most of the rest of the land is very steep and heavily forested with few large camping areas and none developed to take reservations. However, there are a number of historic pack trails that might be worth developing that are outside your typical format and worth considering for some equestrians, hunters, or historical enthusiasts.

If there is any informational material you can provide us that we can link on our website, we would be pleased to include it with our report. My best guess is that students will recommend considering more trails, but with expert oversight and an implementation date maybe a few years down the road. In any instance, Kai, Gabbie, and Hunter are the students you may be hearing from next.

Best,

Bob Zybach, PhD
Program Manager, www.ORWW.org

Cottage Grove
541-505-1298

> On May 20, 2019, at 1:53 PM, Kim McCarrel wrote:

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> Hi, Bob! Ruby Shea from Oregon Equestrian Trails' Roseburg chapter forwarded your last email to me, in which you inquired about equestrian interest in trails in the Elliott State Forest. By way of introduction, my name is Kim McCarrel, and I'm OET's VP of Public Lands. I live in Bend, and unfortunately I've never been to the Elliott.

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> Our short answer to your question is, "You bet! We're interested!" I don't know what you folks have in mind at this point, so please allow me to tell you what our wish list might look like, and later on we can chat about what is feasible and what isn't. I'm not sure what kind of input you're looking for at this point, but I'll blurt out a few thoughts and we can go from there.

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> Since the forest is a long way from a major metro area, it would be great to have a horse camp in or near the forest, with trails radiating out from the horse camp. That way, equestrians can come for a long weekend and explore the trails on the nearby forest. In order to make it an attractive weekend destination, ideally there would be several loop trails (a stacked loop structure is ideal), so riders could do 4 different rides of 8-15 miles each.

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> I'm thinking that a horse camp with 5 or 6 sites would be a good size. The campsites should have normal campsite amenities like a toilet, water, corrals or highline poles for the horses, a bin for manure disposal, and room to park horse trailers. These days, many people travel in living-quarters horse trailers that have a camper-type arrangement in the front and a horse compartment in the back, so a truck and trailer combination can be 50+ feet in length. For this reason, campsites with pull-through parking are ideal. And because most equestrians will be driving quite a way to reach the forest, it would be nice to be able to reserve a campsite so you know there's one waiting for you when you get there. (We can't take our horses to a hotel in town if we arrive and there aren't any campsites, and there aren't any other horse camps nearby for us to go to.)

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> It's pretty important that the road to the horse camp be a reasonably good one. It's tough to make sharp turns with a big trailer, and you can imagine the challenges associated with passing an oncoming vehicle on a narrow one-lane road. Plus, living-quarters trailers don't have the highest clearance in the world,

and they have black- and gray-water tanks beneath them that can be severely damaged by rough roads. A friend who lives on the southern coast tells me that many of the roads into the Elliott may not be passable when towing a horse trailer, so this requirement may be a deal killer.

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> The trails out of the horse camp can easily be shared with hikers. (You might think about a campground that has sites for horses at one end and sites for hikers on the other.) Some trails can be shared with mountain bikes, if the trails have long lines of sight and moderate elevation changes. However, if the terrain allows mountain bike riders to go fast, most equestrians won't be able to share the trails with bike riders. Too many of us have been injured when our horses were spooked by a mountain bike rider suddenly materializing around a blind corner.

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> OK, so that's a quick overview of the equestrian wish list. Now it's your turn. What are you looking for from OET, and how can we help you?

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> Thanks for reaching out to us!

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> Kim