

**IMPORTANT:** Any citizen may orally address the Parks Commission on non-agenda items during the Public Forum. Any citizen may submit written comments to the Commission on any item on the Agenda, unless it is the subject of a public hearing and the record is closed. Time permitting, the Presiding Officer may allow oral testimony. If you wish to speak, please out the Speaker Request Form located near the entrance to the meeting room. The chair will recognize you and inform you as to the amount of time allotted to you, if any. The time granted will be dependent to some extent on the nature of the item under discussion, the number of people who wish to speak, and the length of the agenda.



## MEETING AGENDA

### ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION Trail Master Plan Update Committee March 9, 2018

Siskiyou Room, Community Development Building—51 Winburn Way

10:00 a.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 23, 2018
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS
  - a. Open Forum
  - b. Review Any Public TMP Comments Received Since Last Meeting
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a. Finish Committee Review / Approval of Revised Regional Trails Chapter—Chapter 12 (All)
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Committee Review / Approval of Chapter 3: Recommended Trail Routes—Maps and System (All)
  - b. Committee Review / Approval of Chapter 15: Coordination with the City Comprehensive Plan (All)
  - c. Committee Review / Approval of Chapter 17: Eastside Forestlands (All)
  - d. Committee Review / Approval of Chapter 18: Westside Forestlands (All)
  - e. Reassignment of Rough Draft Authorship of Chapters 9, 10 and 11 (Chapman)
  - f. Roundtable Discussion (All)
- VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE
  - a. March 23, 2018
    - Siskiyou Room, Community Development Building—10:00 a.m.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT—11:30 a.m.

## **REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTIONS**

There is a strong and growing public desire to gain connections from the Ashland trail systems to the regional trails, landmarks, and recreational amenities that extend throughout southern Oregon and northern California. Existing and proposed regional trail linkages will enable the city of Ashland to continue functioning as the hub to a network of trails connecting to adjacent communities and to regionally significant features including the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), the Siskiyou Crest, and Grizzly Peak. The State of Oregon's 2013-2018 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan emphasizes the following goals: <sup>1</sup>

- linking urban trails to outlying Federal trail systems
- linking neighborhood, community, and regional trails
- connecting community parks and other recreational and public facilities
- connecting parks to supporting services and facilities
- connecting neighboring communities
- improving use of the state's existing non-motorized trail infrastructure

At the local level, the Ashland Woodland Trails Association (AWTA) assists with the planning, construction, and maintenance of trails on both City lands and surrounding ownerships. This work is intended to create sustainable trails, enhance user experiences, and provide for travel between ownerships with seamless trail connectivity. On a regional scale, organizations including the Siskiyou Mountain Club are reopening neglected and overgrown trails within federal wilderness areas. These dual efforts allow for non-motorized connectivity between Ashland and surrounding wildlands. Within the last five years, the Siskiyou Mountain Club has reopened trails in the Red Buttes, Sky Lakes, and Soda Mountain Wilderness areas, all of which are accessible via the PCT, which, in turn, has connections to the city of Ashland thanks to the work accomplished by the AWTA. The primary federal land management agencies in this area, the Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), encourage and support local efforts to promote and enhance non-motorized trail connectivity.

## **CREEK TO CREST TRAIL**

### **Route Description**

The existing Creek to Crest Trail connects the Bear Creek Greenway in the city of Ashland to the PCT near Mount Ashland. This trail was designated as a Visionary Trail Route for the state by the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association in the Statewide Trail Plan. The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) and the FS obtained a grant in 2002 to create the route using sections of existing trails and building new sections where needed. This project also provided for trail signage along the route with over 180 new "Creek to Crest" signs installed in 2003. From the Bear Creek Greenway, the trail splits into two parallel routes with one route traveling through Lithia Park and the other ascending through Siskiyou Mountain Park. These two routes rejoin above White Rabbit Trailhead at the Caterpillar-White Rabbit Trail junction where they continue on to the PCT and Mount Ashland.

### **Linkages**

This route passes many other trail and park connections and some desirable viewpoints as it traverses from the valley floor to Mount Ashland and the Siskiyou Crest.

**Character**

The route has a varied character, from busy urban trails and city streets to natural settings of parklands and outlying forests with few other users.

**Expected Users**

Hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers may use portions or the entirety of this route. Many users utilize portions of this trail as a means of making other trail connections or loops.

**Typical Section**

This major connector route is comprised of asphalt paths, sidewalks, or city streets close to town. As the trail ascends to Mount Ashland it exhibits an increasingly wild character and may be comprised of single-track trail or dirt road.

**Natural and Cultural Resources**

The importance of this trail to the culture of Ashland cannot be overstated. Traveling from town to the top of the top of Mount Ashland attracts locals and visitors alike. The popular annual Ashland Hill Climb half-marathon generally follows parts of the Creek to Crest route and attracts hundreds of participants. This trail provides opportunities to view riparian creekside flora and fauna on the valley floor, dry mixed hardwood and conifer forests in the uplands, and alpine tree species such as whitebark pine, hemlock, and Englemann spruce as one approaches the Mount Ashland summit.

**THE CASCADE FOOTHILLS AREA****Area Description**

The hills to the northeast of Ashland rise to Grizzly Peak. This Cascade Foothills area has a southern exposure with grasslands, chaparral, and scattered oak groves which contrast greatly with the coniferous forests of the Ashland watershed. This area offers views of the city of Ashland, Mount Ashland, Wagner Butte, Anderson Butte, Pilot Rock and Mount Shasta.

The Imperatrice Ranch property lies within these foothills and consists of 846 acres owned by the City of Ashland. A conceptual trail plan was prepared for the Imperatrice Ranch property by the City of Ashland and APRC. This property was purchased by the City of Ashland in 1996 using food and beverage tax proceeds. It is comprised of seven tax lots and is located north of Interstate 5, outside the City Urban Growth Boundary. The TID East Lateral traverses three tax lots irrigating 180 acres with a water right of 475 acre-feet per year. The property is predominately pasture land. There are no year-round streams on the property, but several intermittent streams flow during the wet season and at least one spring, Hamby Spring, is located on the property. Most of the property has a relatively steep southern exposure.

Since 2009 there has been interest by the city in determining the best use of the property. Several organizations including the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) have expressed a desire to conserve portions of the property. In addition to an abundance of birds and rare plants, this property is listed as an Area of Special Concern for the survival of black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk herds.<sup>2</sup>

The Imperatrice Ranch property affords opportunities for recreational uses including trails, open space and passive parks. An initial plan has been developed for a trail system with a viable opportunity for connection to Grizzly Peak. A map of the wider Cascade Foothills has been included to help visualize possible regional connections through this property. (Lea, help!)

### **Linkages**

The Cascade Foothills area provides a link from the city of Ashland to regional trails and to popular recreation sites in the Cascade Mountains and the Howard Prairie plateau. Lake and Antelope Creeks flow north of Grizzly Peak and are also accessible from this area.

### **Route Description**

A preliminary proposal for the Ashland to Grizzly Peak Trail is listed as a planning goal in the 2001 Greater Bear Creek Valley Regional Problem Solving Phase One Status Report, authored by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments.<sup>3</sup> This trail, approximately 8 miles in length, would offer an opportunity for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers to utilize the Cascade Foothills as a robust and varied loop system or to gain access to the higher elevation BLM lands and recreation sites on the face and back side of Grizzly Peak. Several easements through private land, including the newly-formed Sampson and Grizzly Peak Preserves managed by the Selberg Institute, will be needed to make this trail system viable. Additional Southern Oregon Land Conservancy acquisitions and agreements with private landowners will create new opportunities for connectivity over time.

### **Character**

The proposed trail would traverse open fields with views of the valley to the south. The wind-swept grasslands above the vineyards and pasturelands offer epic views of Ashland and the expansive flanks of Mount Ashland and the surrounding watershed. The volcanic parent rock of the higher ridges has eroded and formed the high-clay content soils of this area contributing to challenges for trail construction and sustainability.

### **Expected Users**

The expected users for this trail include hikers, runners, equestrians, mountain bikers and maintenance vehicles. On steeper slopes, a separate mountain bike trail would be considered to avoid conflicts with other users.

### **Typical Section**

The trail would be surfaced with crushed-rock and be eight-to-ten-feet wide to allow for service vehicles.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

Grizzly Peak is the prominent feature accessed by the Cascade Foothills. Grizzly Peak rises from the valley to an elevation of more than 5,700 feet above sea level. Grizzly Peak obtained its name in the mid-1850s when a young settler, busy rounding up cattle, barely escaped a fatal encounter with a grizzly bear near the summit. By the 1890s, the area's last grizzlies had been hunted to extinction. It is managed as a recreation site by the BLM and is within the

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Currently, Grizzly Peak is accessed via Shale City Road, 12 miles east of Ashland. The area features a loop trail through dense coniferous forests, grassy openings, and rocky bluffs. Grizzly Peak suffered a wildfire and was burned over in 2002 and now provides an easily accessible example of ecosystem adaptation as it recovers following disturbance from wildfire. The geology of the Cascade Foothills, coupled with their southern aspect, provide habitat for flora and fauna that is distinctly different from the granitic north-aspect of the Ashland watershed. Several rare plants and birds have been identified in the area. This area currently has a very sparse human population that is mostly concentrated at the base of the foothills. Black tail deer, elk, black bear, and cougar may be observed in this area and it has long been an area popular with hunters.

To see a Biological Assessment for the Imperatrice Property go [here](#)

To see a Vascular Plant list for the Imperatrice Property go [here](#)

## **COAST TO CREST TRAIL (National Park to National Park) (Insert Luke's Red Buttes photo in this section)**

### **Route Description**

This approximately 200-mile trail consists of segments of two other popular regional trail routes, the Bigfoot Trail and the PCT which together connect Redwood National Park and Crater Lake National Park. The trail follows the Bigfoot Trail from the coastal uplands to a junction with the PCT on the Siskiyou Crest, approximately fifty miles west of Mount Ashland. From that point, it follows the PCT to the Cascade Mountains and Crater Lake National Park.

### **Linkages**

This route follows the PCT near Ashland and thus shares the same linkage possibilities.

### **Character**

The central portion of this route offers extreme solitude as it explores remote wilderness areas that experience far less visitation than the popular National Parks on either end. The geology and botanical assemblages featured on this trail are highly eclectic.

### **Expected Users**

This route crosses multiple wilderness areas which are open to hikers and equestrians.

### **Typical Section**

A typical section is single-track non-motorized trail with a variable amount of users depending on the season and the section. Some segments are strenuous and rarely maintained while others receive a large amount of visitors and receive annual maintenance.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

Portions of this route follow the historic Kelsey Pack Trail, a supply route established in 1850 between coastal Crescent City and the gold fields at Yreka, California.

This route explores the unique geology of the area as it travels through landscapes shaped by the Cascadia Fault Zone. The route includes terrain created by tectonic uplift, rocks from the upper mantle of the earth, ancient continental edges, the location of the largest tsunami to hit the contiguous United States, and areas of complex, dormant volcanic activity.

This route also provides the opportunity to hike through plant communities growing from the coastline, to hot inland ridges, to the alpine ecosystems of the Cascades Mountains. Users pass through diverse vegetation growing on nutrient-poor soils under extreme temperature and drought stress along the Siskiyou Crest.<sup>4</sup>

## **EMIGRANT LAKE AREA**

### **Route Description**

The Emigrant Lake Recreation Area is a 1,476-acre lakefront park with campsites, boat ramps, and a swimming cove located six miles southeast of Ashland. This recreation area is the planned terminus of the Bear Creek Greenway and was part of the original Greenway Plan of 1966.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

Emigrant Lake is formed by a dam built in 1924 which impounds Emigrant Creek flowing out of the transitory landscape between the Siskiyou Mountains and Cascade Range. Its name derives from the early 1850s when settlers traveled the final stretch of the Applegate Trail descending into the Bear Creek Valley. The lake has an average water volume of 40,530 acre feet and is administered by the TID in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Reclamation. The reservoir helps to regulate the Green Springs Power Plant discharge and provides additional storage for irrigation. The surrounding, geologically complex Siskiyou Mountains have been eroding for over 50 million years, depositing significant quantities of clay, silt, sand, pebbles, and cobbles into low-lying areas at their base. The very well rounded pebbles and cobbles of quartzite rock eroding from the upland formations can often be found in the stream gravels of Bear Creek Valley and on the shoreline of Emigrant Lake.<sup>5</sup>

## **PACIFIC CREST TRAIL (PCT)**

### **Route Description**

This popular National Scenic Trail was created in 1968 as part of federal legislation to foster the creation of a nationwide system of trails. The PCT connects Mexico to Canada and is 2,659 miles in length. The city of Ashland is a major re-supply stop for hikers on this trail. They are a common sight in town during the busy summer season. Heading north from California, the PCT runs congruent with the Coast to Crest trail on the Siskiyou Crest west of Mount Ashland and follows it east of Interstate 5 and north to enter the Cascade Mountain Range.

### **Linkages**

The existing Creek to Crest Trail connects the Bear Creek Greenway and numerous other trails in the city of Ashland to the PCT near Mount Ashland.

### **Character**

This trail explores a broad range of habitats along its entire length. Locally, it is a ridgetop trail west of Interstate 5. East of the interstate it connects to the community of Greensprings, Oregon and becomes a plateau trail before heading north through the Cascade Mountains. This trail experiences severe overcrowding during the summer season. Resource damage and

negative user experiences are a recurring problem due to the trail's popularity.

### **Expected Users**

The expected user groups for this trail are hikers and equestrians. This trail passes through multiple federal wilderness areas where bicycles and motorized equipment are not permitted. Local community members use nearby portions of this trail year-round for single and multi-day hiking and horseback ride or snow sports.

### **Typical Section**

This is a high-volume, well-maintained, typically single-track ridgetop trail.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

Clinton Churchill Clarke first proposed this trail in 1932, but it was not officially designated until 36 years later. This mountainous trail offers users an opportunity to see a vast array of botanical and geologic diversity as well as significant historical and cultural landmarks and features. The lowest point is near sea level, while the highest point is 13,153 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The PCT traverses 25 National Forests and seven National Parks.

## **JACK-ASH TRAIL**

### **Route Description**

The Jacksonville to Ashland trail, referred to as the Jack-Ash Trail, has been partially constructed. When completed, it will run primarily along the ridges and crests of the Siskiyou Mountains between the two cities. The first phase of construction was completed in 2017 with subsequent proposed phases expected to be completed in the near future.

**Lea: See footnote #4 for map help.SEJ**

### **Linkages**

The trail will provide connectivity between the Rogue and Applegate Valleys. There are opportunities for both short and long distance recreation with linkages to the PCT and other regional trails. On the east side, the Jack-Ash Trail connects to the city of Ashland by a circuitous route via the PCT or by a shorter route over Wagner Butte and down into Lithia Park.

### **Character**

Trail users would expect high vehicle traffic on the sections congruent with existing roadways during the weekends as well as opportunities for solitude on some of the single track sections depending on the season.

### **Expected Users**

The Jack-Ash Trail is designed for non-motorized users except where the route runs concurrent with existing multiple-use roads. Typical users would be hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Some of the trail connections, **such as the PCT and Wagner Glade trails are open to pedestrians and equestrians only. (Fact check here)**

### **Typical Section**

This trail consists of a series of single-track, non-motorized trail sections that link several segments of gravel and natural surface roads which are open to vehicle traffic. Trail segments are primarily on BLM land with some proposed portions on private land for which easements would be needed.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

This trail spans a wide variety of environments, from urban areas to Siskiyou Mountain ridge tops, winding through meadows, chaparral and mixed forestlands. The Jack-Ash Trail provides

views of the Rogue and Applegate Valleys, the Siskiyou Crest, and the Cascade Mountains.<sup>6</sup>

### **Citations**

1. 2017 SCORP

[http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018\\_SCORP/2013-2017\\_Oregon\\_SCORP.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/PLANS/docs/scorp/2013-2018_SCORP/2013-2017_Oregon_SCORP.pdf)

2. Beneficial Use of Imperatrice Property, City of Ashland, July 2009

<http://www.ashland.or.us/Files/Imperatrice%20RFP%20Draft%20and%20Map.pdf>

3. Greater Bear Creek Valley Regional Problem Solving Phase One Status Report

<https://jacksoncountyor.org/ds/Planning/Planning-Public-Documents?EntryId=35185>

4. Coast to Cascade Trail, Roger Brandt

<http://www.highway199.org/trails/coast-to-cascade-trail/>

5. United States Bureau of Reclamation-Emigrant Lake

<https://web.archive.org/web/20071219184718/http://www.usbr.gov/dataweb/html/rogueriver.html>

6. BLM Jack-Ash trail EA

[https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/57315/75225/82888/Jack-Ash\\_EA\\_6.15.16.pdf](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/57315/75225/82888/Jack-Ash_EA_6.15.16.pdf)

### **Glossary**

passive park

## **TMP CORRIDOR DESCRIPTIVE FRAMEWORK AND GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES**

Individual corridor information is provided in Chapters 4-12 ???. The below general template of information will be applied to each of the ten existing trails corridors, as well as three newly-designated trail areas that currently comprise the Ashland Trails System:

1. A clear statement of the general alignment route, end points, approximate length in miles, street crossings, and bridges.
2. Linkages to junctions with other routes and trails and to adjacent facilities such as trailheads, schools, civic centers, parks, business centers, and civic amenities.
3. Character in terms of setting, both natural and manmade, viewscape, and intensity of use.
4. Expected and permitted users.
5. Typical Section (e.g. width, surface type), “Design typicals” (typical cross-section of a trail) will be identified in Chapter 13.
6. Natural and cultural highlights of each corridor.

### **Trail Standards Design Guidelines**

The specified width for paved, multi-use trails is six to ten feet. There are no specifications for urban or nature trails in the City Streets Standards Handbook. Urban trails are specified to be three to eight feet wide.

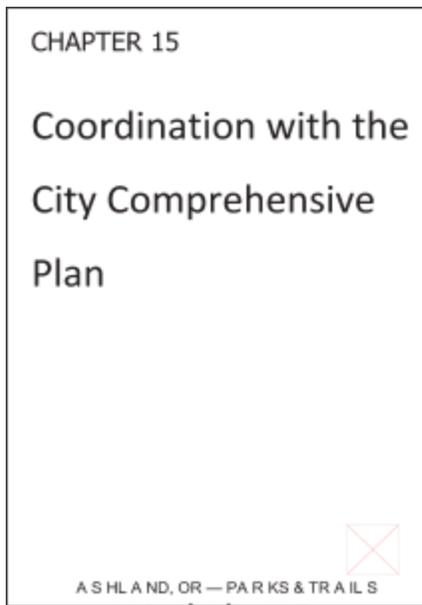
Ashland Parks and Recreation uses the “USFS Trail Design Parameters” guidelines as a model for nature trail assessment, survey and design, construction, repair, and maintenance based on the trail class and the trail’s designed use<sup>1</sup>.

### **Unsanctioned Trails, Trespassing, Camping**

The APRC does not sanction any trails within the Ashland Trails System that trespass on private property. Camping is not a sanctioned activity in any City park or forest lands, or on FS lands within the watershed but transients do use City trails to establish and access illegal camping sites on City, private, and FS lands. The increasing popularity of trail use seems to have discouraged illegal camping in close-proximity areas, however, the illegal campers and associated campfires have simply moved deeper into the watershed and down along the Bear Creek Greenway. City officials regularly express apprehension about the threat of wildfires from campfires started by this illegal activity. Human waste, litter, and damage to natural resources also result from illegal camping in the watershed.

### Citations

1. (Source: [National Design Parameters PDF \(September 2016\)](#))



The 2018 Trails Master Plan Update will be adopted by reference as a technical report supporting the Parks, Open Space, and Aesthetics Chapter (Chapter VIII) of the City of Ashland Comprehensive Plan. The 2018 Trails Master Plan Update shall serve the purpose of a guiding document where the information, data, and findings contained within the document and maps may constitute part of the basis on which new policies may be formulated or existing policy amended. In addition, the 2018 Trails Master Plan Update will provide a source of information that may be used to assist the community in the evaluation of local land use decisions.

## East Side Forest Lands

### Route Description

The East Side Forest Lands area extends southeast from Lithia Park, bordered on the west by Ashland Creek, to the south by the Mount Ashland crestline, and to the east by Oredson-Todd Woods. The East Side trails are among the most visited in the watershed and they include a variety of trail types and uses including bike, equestrian, pedestrian, and running. These trails are listed alphabetically below:

- Alice in Wonderland
- Bandersnatch
- BTI
- Gimble
- Gryphon
- Jabberwocky
- Jub Jub
- Looking Glass
- Mike Uthoff
- Queen of Hearts
- Red Queen
- Snark
- Waterline
- White Rabbit

Much of the trail system starting near Lithia Park loosely follows a ridge southeast and roughly parallel to the nearby portion of the Ashland Loop Road, *aka* FS Rd 2060, connecting to Forest Service (FS) roads and trails. Several of these trails start on City park and forest lands and continue onto FS land, e.g., Red Queen and Alice in Wonderland.

The trails near Oredson-Todd Woods and adjoining Siskiyou Mountain Park were created through a partnership between the city of Ashland and the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. This area is above the city on the southeast side, with access at the end of Park Street, Lupine Drive, or Ashland Loop Road and encompasses nearly 300 acres of park-like forest land with a system of looping trails and a connection to White Rabbit and the East Side uplands.

**Linkages** With their proximity to downtown Ashland and Lithia Park, the East Side Forest Land trails are the most accessible connections from the city of Ashland to the FS lands in the upper watershed. Trails that start in the city center connect to this trail system all the way to Mount Ashland and the Pacific Crest Trail. With significant parking areas located in and above Lithia Park, hikers, bikers, equestrians and runners may begin their routes from several locations. Equestrians

typically park their trailers just above Lithia Park on Glenview Drive. Many of the trails starting near Lithia Park connect to a network of trails winding up through City owned forest lands and eventually onto FS trails in the upper watershed. (See East Side Forest Lands map)

Some trails, notably White Rabbit and the Mike Uhtoff Trail connect the far East Side Forest Lands laterally to the Alice in Wonderland/Red Queen trail complex. This includes a connector from the Oredson-Todd Woods/Siskiyou Mountain park area with connections to both the FS uplands and, by extension, down into Lithia Park and downtown Ashland.

### **Character**

The East Side Forest Lands is a diverse, mixed conifer and hardwood woodland area with a mix of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, Pacific madrone, and Oregon white oak. This area experiences the highest trail density in the local trail systems. Several of the East Side Forest Land trails start immediately adjacent to residential areas and most of the trails quickly ascend upslope into the forest lands.

There is high scenic value to many trails in this area as they offer frequent views of Mount Ashland, Grizzly Peak, Wagner Butte, the city of Ashland, and Ashland Creek.

### **Expected Users**

Hikers, mountain bikers, runners, and equestrians use the the trails in this area. Currently, electric bicycles and other motorized traffic is not allowed

### **Typical Section**

Most trails in this area are on granitic soils, approximately 24 in. wide when properly maintained, have a 5% or greater outslope, and have less than 10% grade on average. However, there are exceptions in width, steepness, outslope and soil type. Trail sections range from groomed parklike areas with wide chipped-bark paths, turnpikes and kiosks with maps, e.g., Oredson-Todd Woods, to narrow single track, e.g., Gimble, Red Queen, with simple trail signs, if any at all. Some mountain bike trails are wider, particularly in turns.

In the drier months, traction can be problematic on trails composed of granitic soil. In the wetter months, granitic soil tends to absorb water and becomes less slippery.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

Between 1950 and 1969, 53 miles of roads were built in the Ashland Watershed. A road moratorium in 1969 halted further construction. Mountain bikers, runners, equestrians and hikers use these defunct logging roads to connect to trails. Some of these roads have been abandoned for so long that they have essentially become trails. The FS actually lists FS Rd 2060 as a trail named the Lithia Loop Mountain Bike Route. However, few mountain bikers actually ride the loop, eschewing the roads for actual trails.

**Lamb's Mine Trail** In 1908, an Ashland storekeeper named Lamb built a ridge-top wagon road to his gold mining operation on the divide between Bear Creek and Ashland Creek. Traces of the old Lamb Wagon Road and Lamb Mine can still be found parallel to the lower section of FS Rd 2060 along the Lamb Mine Trail. The trail follows portions of an old mining ditch built sometime in the early 1900s to bring water from Ashland Creek to power a stamp mill located on upper Tolman Creek road. The ditch trail passes by one of the old "adits" (tunnels with one entrance) of the Lamb Mine, which was excavated into the granite slope in search of gold.

**Alice in Wonderland** This trail was modified and named by the early mountain bikers in the '80s. Its salient feature was a long, narrow section that featured a canopy of thick, otherworldly manzanita and the trail provided a riding experience similar to descending through a tunnel. Riders had to duck and get very low on their bikes to avoid the overhead branches. Think "down the rabbit hole" and one begins to understand the origin of the name "Alice in Wonderland."

**White Rabbit** Named by former FS recreational specialist Phil Ackermann who was instrumental in the design and building of the White Rabbit Trail system, he chose the name to fit in with the Alice in Wonderland theme. Trails in that system include Queen of Hearts, Mad Hatter, March Hare and Cheshire Cat.

**Catwalk** Originally built by mountain bikers, its original name was Jed and Eric's Trail. Because the trail was unauthorized, the builders decided they didn't want it named after them, so they changed it to Catwalk. **(AUTHORIZED TRAIL?)**

### Glossary

multi use trail

trail turnpikes

stamp mill

## **West Side Forest Lands**

### **Route Description**

This is an area to the south and west of the TID Trail on the west side of Ashland Creek and extending up to an imaginary line roughly connecting Ostrich Peak, Panther Peak and Wagner Butte. The existing official trails in this area include:

- Westside TID Trail
- Parts of Hitt Road
- Bird Song Trail
- Fell on Knee Trail
- Hearts Nature Trail
- Granite Street Trail

The Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association (AWTA) has plans for an additional trail in the area called Wonder, which will start near the defunct granite quarry at the top of Granite St and continue roughly parallel to FS Road 2060 into Forest Service lands and ultimately connect to the Fell on Knee Trail.

Several popular rogue trails exist on private land in this area and connect to Hitt Road. The private land around the popular Ostrich Peak area is serviced by several of these rogue trails.

Several unsanctioned, popular hiking trails exist on private and City land between the Acid Castle Rocks area below Hitt Rd and the TID Trail area.

### **Linkages**

Hitt Rd connects to the Strawberry-Hald area (see Wrights Creek Chapter) and is very close to the TID trail. Hitt Road continues through the lower parcel of private land and becomes FS Road 300 which connects to the multi-use Fell on Knee Trail as well as FS Rd 2060 with connections to other West Side Forest Service trails. These include: No Candies, Ricketty, Horn Gap Road and Horn Gap Trail, Potlicker, and Wagner Glade Trail, which connects to Wagner Lookout Trail and the Split Rock Trail.

When the Wonder Trail is completed, a loop encompassing Hitt Rd, Fell on Knee and Wonder will encourage more biking, hiking, running and equestrian use on the West Side which will help distribute user impact and enhance user experience. Various loop permutations exist connecting other Forest Service trails with Ricketty, Horn Gap Road and Horn Gap Trail, No Candies and FS Rd 400 will make the West Side Forest Lands trail system more accessible and appealing. These trail variations have gained increasing importance as they serve the AWTA and Forest Service goal to distribute trail users throughout the trail system.

Hearts Nature Trail and Granite Street trails connect Granite Street to the TID trail. These trails provide easy linkages from Lithia Park to the TID Trail. Both are designated pedestrian use only.

Parking areas serving the West Side Forest Land trails are located in and above Lithia Park, thus allowing hikers, bikers, equestrians and runners to begin their outings from several locations. Many hikers, bikers and runners start their routes in the Plaza downtown or in Lithia Park and either use Winburn Way or upland park trails to get to the West Side Forest Land trails via FS Rd 2060. Some start by hiking or biking up Strawberry Ln to get to Hitt Rd. Additionally, a small amount of private land parking exists at the top of the residential area on Hitt Rd.

### **Character**

Hitt Road was once a logging and mining road, but is no longer a navigable four-wheel vehicle route. It still retains the character of a steep mountain road in places, with an average grade of 12%. It holds appeal for hikers, runners, and mountain bikers as a single-track trail. Hitt Road provides a critical link to other important West Side Forest Land trails and, together with FS Rd 2060, is one of the two main arteries into the West Side Forest Land trail system.

Hitt Rd climbs considerably gaining 1000 feet on City and private lands in just 1.5 miles. Vegetation at the bottom of the trails begins with a mix of chaparral, white oak, madrone, and occasional open-grown pine trees, eventually grading into Douglas-fir.

Large granite boulders are perched in the Acid Castle Rocks area, on Fell on Knee Trail, as well as higher up on the West Side Forest Service trails.

The TID trail traverses along a closed forest canopy offering a more secluded and shady trail outing.

Trails in this area offer views of Mount Ashland, Grizzly Peak, Wagner Butte, the city of Ashland and the central Rogue Valley.

### **Expected Users**

Hikers, mountain bikers, and runners use the present trail system. Currently, electric bicycles and other motorized traffic are not allowed.

### **Typical Section**

Hitt Rd varies in width from 5-feet to 12-feet+ and is comprised of decomposed granite interspersed with smaller rocks and cobbles. The short section of Fell on Knee trail on City forest lands is also on decomposed granitic soil, approximately

24-inches wide when freshly maintained with 5% or greater outslope, and has less than 5% grade on average.

In the drier months, traction can be an issue on granitic trails. In the winter months, granite absorbs water and becomes less slippery.

### **Natural and Cultural Resources**

In the 1980s and early 1990s mountain bikers began to link old trails and roads as well as build new trails. Many of the most popular trails in the watershed were built by mountain bikers, possibly contributing to a dynamic of: "forgiveness is easier than permission".

Hitt Road is named after E.P. Hitt. In 1935, E.P. Hitt and his wife deeded a significant amount of property to the City. The road was originally used for logging and mining. Mining activities at the Skyline Mine near Ostrich Peak led to the creation of roads and trails in that area, including the Skyline Mine Trail which is now used by hikers and bikers and has been renamed No Candies Trail.

Mystical – A local mountain bike race organizer originally built Mystical for the Spring Thaw mountain bike race course and called it the Bank Trail. Because the trail connects Ostrich Peak with Hitt Road, people began calling it the Connecting Trail, but eventually the trail became known as Mystical.

### Glossary

Unsanctioned trail

Sanctioned trail

Rogue trail

Official trail

open grown trees