

# Trail Advocates

of the Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest

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## Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)

**Topic:** Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)

**Author:** Rob Williams

**Topic Started:** 1/18/2009; 7:29:02 AM

**Last Posted:** 2/3/2009; 9:30:54 PM

### Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)

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**Rob Williams** : 1/18/2009; 6:29:02 AM

Reads: 628, Responses: 16 ( [view responses to this item](#))

Bad news for anyone who likes to explore the old road 54 up Fish Creek.....After the recent flooding, it appears as though it has washed out the "trail" that was there at First Creek. My brother went up there and couldn't get any farther than that due to the creek having washed it out and having a 20-30' drop into the creek. I'm hoping that another way can be found around it, but after seeing pictures, I'm not sure.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Zack Byerly** : 1/18/2009; 5:14:45 PMReads: 479, Responses: 13 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

What about heading up the old Calico road and then dropping down after crssing the creek? I have down that a few times just to make the trip a little more interesting. Though it is entirely possible that that section could be somewhat treacherous as well after flooding. Did your brother attempt that approach, Rob?

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)**[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 1/18/2009; 10:09:25 PMReads: 495, Responses: 12 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

No, he didn't. I showed him the area a month or so ago, and he went back yesterday, but he didn't know the area too well.

I've not been up the Calico road before. Is that the next turnoff up the road? After seeing some of the local damage after the recent flooding, having the trail washed out doesn't surprise me too much. It is just kind of a bummer.....I really love that area, and am still trying to get farther up wash and fish creeks.....

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Zack Byerly** : 1/20/2009; 9:03:46 PMReads: 481, Responses: 11 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Yeah it is the next turnoff. I have traveled up the Calico as far as Third Creek but that was probably back around spring of 07. Conditions could be different now especially after last winter and this year's so far.

Generally though the creek crossings were all pretty minor compared to the type you encounter walking up road 54. If you look at the old quads the calico road appears to cover miles and miles of the eastern ridge of the watershed. The lower Calico Road is being overaken by Birch trees and so hiking it requires patience and a long stick.

I am really looking forward to trying to find some remnants of the Cold Springs trail that crosses Fish Creek somewhere near Pick Creek I believe? Late in the season I enjoyed hiking the segment of that trail that took off from road 4540. Didn't get too far though, once I came upon an old clearcut next to the stream I lost sign of the trail. Although seeing the old trail sign was more than worth the climb.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Donovan** : 1/22/2009; 10:20:42 AMReads: 491, Responses: 10 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Glad the sign is still there. It's a nice walk southbound back to the road as well. There are about six miles of trail back and forth along 4640. The best part is at Round Mountain.

It looks like the pipeline might rip through Cold Springs route unless it goes around the drainage. Which is a rumor I heard lately.

There is no trail beyond where you went if you went down a few switchbacks, to the springs, up onto a flat and south through a younger stand to the head of a small creek at the edge of about a twenty year old cut.

To continue, drive around to 4650 to Shovel Creek. On the district map, under the "125" spur box you will find more of the trail into a stand of real nice noble. Goes to a cut beyond which I have not explored. The trail is likely heavily logged over. I always figured there would be better chances of finding some of it on the west side than the east side.

I hope you do scout it out. It would be nice to have a route down in there that was efficient.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)**

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**Rob Williams** : 1/26/2009; 7:31:54 AM

Reads: 462, Responses: 0 ( [view responses to this item](#))

I'd love to get more detailed info on these trails. Where is the trail sign? I just love exploring the Fish Creek basin. I'm wondering if the big boulder on road 4550 just past the turnoff to Memaloose has been moved yet? When I went up there last summer, it was completely blocking the road.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Zack Byerly** : 1/26/2009; 7:44:42 PMReads: 472, Responses: 8 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Donovan:

Great info on the old trail. I made it down to the edge of the cut just as you described before turning around. Also found some scattered flagging upstream that crossed the creek but didn't seem to lead anywhere. After I hiked back up to the rig that day I drove down to the 4550 and looked long and hard for a continuation of the trail between pick and shovel creeks. No luck, I think I even drove down the 125 spur. Probably should have gotten out and poked around more, didn't notice any type of flagging either. I am really hoping I can locate some type of remnants near Fish Creek, but with the substantial harvests that took place down there it may be foolhardy to think so. I will still give it a shot though, got to have something to feed my passion during the offseason. Prior to heading down the Cold Springs route I had parked at the same spot on the 4540 and followed some flagging on the opposite side of the road, it led around some blockages on an old road then up onto an old trail. Soon after, the trail came to an open flat that straddled the ridge. I then followed an old 'road' I believe that continued just below or on the ridgeline for probably 2-3 miles. When I finally arrived at a more recent cut that allowed a view looking down into the Molalla drainage I became quite confused. I could not get my bearings and none of the landmarks I could see were concurring with the district map I held in my hand. I wonder if this is part of the old trail that you have said runs back and forth along 4540. It was the width of a road but had definitely not been traveled by vehicles in many years, there was also inconsistent flagging and it seems like equestrians had been making good use of it. Wherever I was the walk was worth it because I ended up seeing a sow and her cub just downridge after a slight turn from east to west. I am very eager to explore the section near Round Mtn. I had neglected doing any exploration south of South Fk. Mtn until this last fall. I look forward to getting back up there during a time other than rifle season.

Rob:

I never noticed any boulder on the 4550, road was completely clear. I took the old Hillock Burn Road (45) to get up to this area, seems just as long as if you were to come up 45 from Memaloose bridge. Just less traffic and quarry shooting ranges. The section of the Cold Springs trail off of 4540 is approx a mile from the 4530 / 4540 if I remember correctly. There are two decent sized pullouts on either side of the road one looks like a party spot with a fire ring. The trail is pretty easy to spot, tread is well worn and it is generously covered by sticks and branches. I am still hoping to go check out the flood damage on lower Fish Creek this weekend, I will be sure to snap some photos.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)**

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**Rob Williams** : 1/27/2009; 8:04:25 AM

Reads: 458, Responses: 0 ( [view responses to this item](#))

Yes, I was coming up from memaloose bridge. I've not taken road 45 past the Hillockburn trail on that end. I never like driving up road 45 from memaloose due to the shooting areas and garbage dumps that seem to be every quarter mile or so.

I'll check out the maps and have to do some planning on exploring that area once we can get back up there. I'd love to see more pictures from lower Fish Creek, too.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)**

**Donovan** : 1/27/2009; 9:29:17 AM

Reads: 473, Responses: 0 ( [view responses to this item](#))

I think that the 2 or 3 mile walk was the old jeep road to SooSap Peak. BLM country.

As for Shovel Creek trail, it is off an inside bend in the road at a draw, trail develops on the north side of the draw, about thirty feet from the road on account side cast from the road construction. It's been a long time since I have been there.

Hope you find it and chase it down.

Donovan

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)**[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 2/3/2009; 5:15:47 AMReads: 437, Responses: 1 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Zack:

Did you make it up to Fish Creek? Any pictures?

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Zack Byerly** : 2/3/2009; 8:30:54 PMReads: 436, Responses: 0 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Rob:

Regrettably, no news from Fish Creek. Hiking partner was more interested in snowshoeing around the upper Sandy. Hoping to head up Fish Creek solo on Sat., Sportsmens show on Sunday.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Robert Koscik** : 9/16/2009; 8:06:46 AMReads: 53, Responses: 5 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Hey, this old thread is inspiring! Hope to get out to that area soon and check things out. I have been studying the old maps of the area, seems like a mostly forgotten place with a lot of history. Interesting that someone has already been out there scoping things around. It's unfortunate that so much logging occurred around there, but maybe there's enough surviving pieces to create a decent trail. Other than Memaloose, there isn't much opportunity for recreation in that part of the district.

Is there a decent camp near the former Cold Sprs. RS?

Anyone notice that the peak near the former ranger station looks a lot like a bunny? Especially on the '16 map.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)**

**Donovan** : 9/16/2009; 6:33:14 PM

Reads: 35, Responses: 2 ( [view responses to this item](#))

Yes, you could have a decent camp at Cold Springs. There is a faint spring at the site, a real good one down the Cold Springs trail a little ways, and a pretty good one south on the old trail to Baty, Round, Divide.. the old Bagby Trail a hundred yards or so.

It's kind dark on account the hemlock grove it's in.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Robert Kosciak** : 9/17/2009; 5:23:56 AMReads: 40, Responses: 1 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Hey thanks!

I mapped out the Cold Springs Trail onto the Google Maps satellite (close as I could get)...passes thru 3-4 major clearcuts, but it looks like the bulk of the route may survive. It would be a good trail to fix up, due to the fact it's not in wilderness, but would take a hell of a lot of scouting. There must have been a lot of traffic back there before 54 got washed out, but now it's pretty remote country. Of course it's high up so the season is pretty short up there. And of course there are system trails that need a lot of work as it is.

What is the number for Cold Springs Trail?

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Donovan** : 9/17/2009; 8:08:34 AMReads: 30, Responses: 0 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

519

There has been some effort to find parts of it. Maps show the west end of it in differing places. Cold Springs is easy to find. A saddle, a pullout, old signboard, old road (closed) to Soosap Peak on right.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Zack Byerly** : 9/19/2009; 6:38:37 PMReads: 14, Responses: 1 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

Robert-

I spent a pretty fair amount of time researching and scouting out the Cold Springs trail last fall and then again in early spring.

Probably my most ambitious trips were a long day hike, and then an overnight backpack both in April up the 54 road to the pick creek/wash creek confluence, which according to the old map I have is approx where the Cold Springs trail would have crossed Wash Creek. On one trip I focused on the west side of Camelback and was very stoked to find some pretty solid evidence of the old path from just above Wash Creek leading around the north tip of Camelback and then fading out on the east flank of Camelback. It actually was pretty easy to find, probably due to the fact that it was in untouched forest. Unfortunately, my search on the west side of Wash Creek near Pick Creek was fruitless and frustrating, the numerous washouts and landslides, coupled with the thick second growth woods, and trying to cover any significant ground while solo were all extremely deflating factors. I actually ended up hiking up Wash creek on the road that parallels it until I got to an incredible site of an old bridge, still in one piece, that was turned vertical along the creek, quite an amazing display of nature's fury. The overall scenery along Wash Creek was absolutely incredible, the entire time I was up there I kept kicking myself for not bringing someone other than my dog to behold what few people get a chance to see today. It is a major pain in the butt just to get up there, probably on the same level as one of these brutal Paul Turner bushwhacks that we read about, but it is a trip you will not regret. I would be very interested in doing what I can to help piece together more of this forgotten trail.

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**Re: Old road 54 (up Fish Creek)****Donovan** : 9/19/2009; 9:28:01 PMReads: 16, Responses: 0 ( [↩](#) view responses to this item)

I think the best bet is to piece the trail from above, heading down from 4550. It can be found at Shovel Creek, on it's north side just below the road where it heads. Now I know this is a little south seeming, but it is in jive with one map. The top end of this 519 is shown two ways over the years. The trail heads into some real nice Noble and then to a patch of reprod which is as far as I have been on it.

And at one real long time ago, there is an indication that the trail, or another, came up at Round Mtn. There is a likely spot for that somewhat north of Round Mountain Meadow, which I just named right here, as far as I know.

Want to see Round Meadow? Easy way, go to the junction of 4550 and 4540. Park. Get out and enter the woods north from the junction. It's not a real big deal but it's a pleasant spot.

The other general thing I'd like to say about these endurance bushwacks is that they are not the only method to find and enjoy an old trail. Another method is take some loppers and nibble it out a little bit each time, spending time being there, studying, and, making the next entrance to the searching spot faster and easier to get in and out of. A few hundred yards at a time. From an accessible access point.

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