

Trail Advocates

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

Editors Only: [News Stories](#) [Pictures](#) [Files](#) [Shortcuts](#) [Discuss](#) [Logoff](#) [Help](#)

Trail 563?

Topic: Trail 563?

Author: Rob Williams

Topic Started: 9/29/2007; 9:33:44 AM

Last Posted: 12/2/2007; 9:42:31 PM

Trail 563?

[Edit this Page](#)

Rob Williams : 9/29/2007; 8:33:44 AM

Reads: 444, Responses: 29 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I was looking at my copy of "Oregon's Hidden Wilderness" today, and was looking at some of the trails on the map. I saw one, trail 563, which I don't see listed here. I'm guessing that it has become an abandoned trail? It looks like an interesting/short way to get to the Geronimo trail, which also sounds interesting, although STEEP.

Also, does anyone know if the Battle Creek Shelter still there, or has it disappeared?

Rob

[Discuss this message.](#)

Navigation

[Home](#)
[About](#)
[Trail Index](#)
[Get Involved](#)
[Hikes](#)

Discussion

[Chronological](#)

[By Topic](#)

Membership

[Sign Out](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Bill Cattrall** : 9/30/2007; 5:30:59 AMReads: 400, Responses: 15 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Rob,

I pulled out my copy and that trail isn't listed? You must have the first edition and I the second. Where does the trail start and stop? The map in my copy has a trail with a number that looks like 563 but is not clear that connects 555 to 554 near West lake. I have never been on that trail other than a camp on the north end when we ran out of light going to Lake Lenore. We saw a bobcat while watching the sunrise! Battle Creek Shelter is gone I'm sure, little was left when I first went through there in the 70's. Then there were picnic tables at Upper Twin Lake and an outhouse. There is still the remains of an outhouse at Lake Lenore, very open air.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?**[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 9/30/2007; 6:14:13 AMReads: 401, Responses: 14 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Interesting.....I'm sure it is an abandoned trail then. It went from a road (not sure what road it is today but on the old map it says s84) pretty much directly east of where the Battle Creek Shelter is/was.

An outhouse at Lake Lenore? Hmm, I went there last year with my daughter, and we didn't see one. Although we pretty much just sat down by the lake and dipped our feet, resting and cooling off. We didn't venture out too far around the lake. It was a beautiful lake, but the trail going down to it was pretty rough. We camped at big slide lake and did some exploring in the area that year. It was a great trip. I'd love to go visit twin lakes one of these days.

As far as wildlife goes, I've never seen anything larger than a squirrel/bird on any of my hikes or backpacking, except for one hike. It think it was on the Fanton Trail, and I believe it was during hunting season. I saw some kind of small cat on the trail way ahead of me, but I didn't get a good look at it before it ran off. Further up the trail, I saw a herd of BIG elk run up the hill. When we were at Cliff Lake (near Bend) this summer, my daughter said she heard something BIG walking around, snorting in the middle of the night, but I slept right through it.

Rob

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?

Bill Cattrall : 9/30/2007; 8:40:46 AM

Reads: 391, Responses: 13 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Rob,

I got out the tattered old 56 topo and there are two old trails east and southeast of the Elk Lake trail.

Scorpion Mtn. trail follows the ridge south of and above Elk Lake Creek starting at the west end at Dunlop Lake and going via Scorpion Mtn. down to Breitenbush Guard station I think. That would be a nice hike. The other trail is the Janus Butte trail that connects with Elk Lake Creek near Knob Rock Creek. It goes off my map and it isn't clear where it goes on the map with the Hidden Wilderness book but that map shows more roads in that area than the '02 Clackamas District map.

I suppose that Janus Butte would have been a shortcut between Breitenbush and points north rather than taking Scorpion Mtn. to Elk Lake and then down Elk Lake Creek to Oh Boy and the Collawash road-trail. I will have to put this on my trails to find list.

Last year I took my daughter to Lake Lenore to camp and we stopped at Big Slide to explore. The outhouse is north of the camp near the end of the lake. It is mostly out and not much house.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 9/30/2007; 1:54:46 PMReads: 405, Responses: 6 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

This trail is from what appears to be Scorpion Mtn (it is kind of hidden with the wilderness outline) almost directly west to the Battle Creek Shelter. I see the Scorpion Mtn trail on my map, but it swings SW after it passes Scorpion Mtn.

Big Slide was a lot of fun. There are a ton of trails to explore during the day, and I even had pretty good luck fishing in the lake!

There is one of those "outhouses" (more out than house) at Serene lake too!

So many trails....So little time.....

Rob

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Bill Cattrall** : 9/30/2007; 4:28:15 PMReads: 415, Responses: 5 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Rob,

I pulled out an old Willamette FS from '76 and found s84, it is now 4696 that follows East Humbug Creek. The old map didn't have a trail there but when I went to the '96 FS map to get the new number there is the trail. It takes off from the nw spur road and heads mostly west in line with Battle Creek on the other side of Elk Lake Creek. All of the other trails on this map have numbers but not this one and why did it show up on this map after being left off all of the others?

You had better luck fishing than I did, they were biting but not on any flies that I had.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 9/30/2007; 4:52:26 PMReads: 404, Responses: 4 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Another interesting thing I noticed on the map was reference to a tunnel just off of road 906k, almost directly north of Gold Butte. I wonder if that is now road 451 (or 459), and if the tunnel still exists?

I wonder if that old trail still exists? Kind of odd that it seemed to appear for only a short time.....It certainly doesn't show up on current maps, although it does show up on my USGS map dated 1985.

I don't remember what I was using for bait, could have been flies or powerbait. I didn't keep any of them, though. Too small, but it was fun to catch them!

Rob

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Kevin Wright** : 9/30/2007; 5:26:53 PMReads: 434, Responses: 3 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Rob - I was at Gold Butte in late August, and wondered about the mining tunnel myself as I pondered the Detroit Ranger District Map where the Gold Butte spur road meets road 451. It was getting late and I headed back home, but made a note to explore some more next time I'm up there. If you haven't been to Gold Butte lately, it's worth a visit - quite a restoration.

Kevin

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Bill Cattrall** : 10/1/2007; 6:07:50 AMReads: 437, Responses: 2 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I never noticed that tunnel before. A lot of mining went on up there. Another tunnel is under the junction of tr. 558 and tr.573. I didn't go in that one as I was short on light but there is a large old hammer mill part out front. I have no idea how they got that thing in there but it will be there for awhile. The old mine shafts are in the most amazing places, it makes you realize that someone has looked at every rock at some point.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Robert Kosciak** : 10/1/2007; 9:14:01 AMReads: 441, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Battle Ax Creek shelter is long gone, yer right. Geronimo is steep as hell but gets you up in a hurry.

I remember reading somewhere that the trail up past Scorpion was an old indian route but I don't have any more info. Think it was in that Sullivan wilderness book.

Check this out, a numeric list but this one isn't on it:

<http://www.mthood.info/hikingtrails/numindex.htm>

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Doug Firman** : 10/2/2007; 8:50:43 AMReads: 448, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

A trail east from Battle Creek Shelter shows up on this [USGS topo map](#). Someone has recently done some exploration in this area, as this summer I noticed some flagging in the trees just across Elk Lake Creek from one of the campsites there. I crossed the creek and found a trail of some kind where the flagging was and spent a little time following it, but there was more blowdown than I wanted to deal with and I didn't really know where the trail was headed. Next time I'm in that area I'd like to check it out a little bit more.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Robert Kosciak** : 10/8/2007; 5:52:00 AMReads: 417, Responses: 5 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

From Bill: "The other trail is the Janus Butte trail that connects with Elk Lake Creek near Knob Rock Creek. It goes off my map and it isn't clear where it goes on the map with the Hidden Wilderness book but that map shows more roads in that area than the '02 Clackamas District map. I suppose that Janus Butte would have been a shortcut between Breitenbush and points north rather than taking Scorpion Mtn. to Elk Lake and then down Elk Lake Creek to Oh Boy and the Collawash road-trail. I will have to put this on my trails to find list."

Interesting. An old hiking book I have mentions the Janus Butte Way Trail, as well as Oh Boy Forest Camp. Also mentions a "weathered old sign at the trail junction" but the book is from '74 so it's long gone! Think the camp is gone too, Terraserver shows a big clearcut in the area. I hope to be out there in a few weeks, I'll check it out and let you guys know.

Shows on this map still: <http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=44.8642&lon=-122.0139&datum=nad27&u=4&layer=DRG100&s=50>

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Doug Firman** : 10/8/2007; 11:56:30 AMReads: 423, Responses: 4 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

You're right, the weathered old sign is gone, although there was a remnant still clinging to the tree at the junction up to a couple of years ago. The segment of the Janus Butte trail from Elk Lake Creek trail down to the creek is still there, though. The FS says the junction is 1.6 miles from the Collawash trailhead, which seems about right. Just watch your odometer and turn left when it gets to 1.6. The trail is faint, but the forest is fairly open at that spot, so if you're really looking for it you'll spot it. It's a little more than halfway between the Pine Cone Creek crossing and Knob Rock Creek, just as the trail begins a gradual descent towards Knob Rock Creek. There's a campsite or two down by Elk Lake Creek.

I wonder if you are looking at the same 1974 book that I am (Don and Roberta Lowe's 70 Hiking Trails in the Northern Cascades). They mention "the junction of the faint Janus Butte and East Fork trails..." At first I thought that this meant that there were two trails at this junction, but looking at other maps I see that the old Janus Butte trail went across the slopes of Janus Butte to connect with the East Fork Way trail near the East Fork of the Collawash.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Robert Kosciak** : 10/8/2007; 3:04:07 PMReads: 431, Responses: 3 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

That's the one! Yes, the same book too. Have you explored the trail? Wondering if it's blazed and how the hell does one cross Elk Lk Creek, that's usually pretty high flow by Autumn...

Funny I've hiked that trail numerous times and never knew about the Janus trail. Looks like it goes thru some real wilderness too, no logging or roads in the area at all, just solid tree cover for many miles. The trail does not show on the 1935 Mt. Hood NF map but does on the '46 one.

Thanks for the input, appreciate it.

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?

Doug Firman : 10/8/2007; 3:28:16 PM

Reads: 421, Responses: 2 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

All I've done is to follow the trail from the Elk Lake Creek trail down to the creek itself. I don't remember seeing an obvious spot where the trail would have crossed the creek to pick up the trail on the other side. It's been several years since I've been there, so I can't say for sure, but I would guess that the creek at this location is wide and relatively shallow enough so that it can be crossed safely on foot most of the time if you don't mind getting wet. I'd like to explore across the creek one of these days, but just haven't gotten around to it.

The Janus trail shows up on an older USGS topo map. I don't have the actual quad map. What I have is the map insert that was included in the "Oregon's Hidden Wilderness" book. That map is compiled from USGS quads, but it's undated.

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Robert Koscik** : 10/8/2007; 3:40:04 PMReads: 418, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Well if this nice weather holds up I hope to camp down there with some friends at the end of October so I'll be sure and check it out, and cross the creek if I can. I did notice that right east of there where the trail gets close to the creek someone has carved on a tree "Camp No. Survey Crew 6", probably before the trail was built because it looks very old and partially overgrown with bark.

Looks like a good place to hide from the Chinese after the invasion of 2025! I'll build a shack out there somewhere.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Bill Cattrall** : 10/8/2007; 7:07:06 PMReads: 451, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I have been thinking about the 563 trail and it must be a new one. Not there on old maps at all and not on many new ones. My theory is that this trail was built in the late '70's as a short cut for trail crews. I camped at Twin lake back then and they were rebuilding the 573 trail and blasting all day. The old trail was not an even grade, going up and over each tree and then back down. I stopped at Upper Welcome lake around that time and there must have been 15 guys there on a trail crew. So how did they all get there? The 563 trail would have been a quick way in perhaps. I would like to see if the trail has old blazes.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Doug Firman** : 10/24/2007; 7:41:58 PMReads: 379, Responses: 7 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I hiked up Elk Lake Creek today to the Battle Creek shelter, and went across Elk Lake Creek to check out the flagging over there. Someone has been over there doing a lot of work locating and flagging the abandoned trail which Rob referred to as Trail 563 ([map](#)). About 1/8 mile in from the creek crossing there is a metal FS sign on a tree with an arrow pointing to Hawk Mountain and gives a mileage of 12 miles. The sign is in pretty good condition so it couldn't be that old (some rust, not a lot). I followed the trail as far as the first small stream crossing. It's well-flagged and easy to follow. Also noticed some blazes along the way. I don't suppose the trail goes all the way to Hawk Mtn. these days, but I'm real curious to know how far it does go. A funny thing about that sign, though. It had an arrow pointing in the opposite direction to Elk Lake, which is correct except that the mileage said 8 miles. It's only about 4 miles from Battle Creek to Elk Lake on Trail 559, so I don't understand the 8 mile designation.

Now here's something for you trivia buffs. On the way back to my truck I decided to look for old telephone line insulators along the trail. From Battle Creek shelter to the Collawash trailhead (5 miles) I counted 63 insulators plus 8 wires which had held insulators at one time. This really surprised me because I have hiked that trail a couple of dozen times but have only noticed one or two insulators. But when I started looking for them there were lots of them to be found. When I think of all the times that I have walked down that trail wasting my time looking at the creek or the wildflowers along the trail when I could have been looking at insulators instead, boy, do I feel foolish!

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Bill Cattrall** : 10/26/2007; 6:43:17 PMReads: 382, Responses: 6 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Doug,

Thanks for the update. The metal sign is interesting, I just got a copy of McKenzie Trails by Jerold Williams from the library and at the end he talks about FS signs. He said, "The age of a trail sign tells the traveller something about when the trail was constructed, or re-constructed.

1930's standard enamel sign. Indestructable in normal use, it was often victim to infantile hunters whose bullet holes mutilated it.

1950's standard plywood sign. This standard was short lived when it proved that "waterproof" plywood delaminated in exposed locations.

Bears developed a singular taste for the glue between the layers.

A local production, this handsome, durable solid cedar sign of the 1960's never became a forest standard.

Standard trail sign of the 1970's. This red oak routed sign is proving a rugged and worthy successor to the old enamel model."

He has pictures of each with the description and they are all familiar to me. I never thought to date a trail by the sign style, live and learn. It seems right that in the '30s you might use this trail to get to Hawk Mt. I just wonder why it is on so few old maps. And the 8 miles to Elk lake? Is it still easy to cross Elk lake creek?

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Joe Keller** : 10/26/2007; 9:38:11 PMReads: 395, Responses: 5 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I'm also curious about the creek crossings. I last hiked to Battle Creek Shelter in 2001 (end of May), and I recall three crossings of the creek were required. We were able to find a tree for the last one, but the other two were fairly wide, cold and knee deep. I expect an autumn crossing would be much easier(?).

Joe

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?

Doug Firman : 10/27/2007; 9:07:50 AM

Reads: 381, Responses: 4 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I've been on the Elk Lake Creek trail twice in the past couple of weeks, and the level of flows in the creek changed considerably in the interim. The first time out, I crossed at the Janus Butte trail, which is downstream of the confluence with Pine Knob and Welcome creeks, and the water level was about a foot deep (although with my superior wading skills I managed to wind up in a hole that was knee deep). This week I stayed on trail 559, and at the first crossing (above Pine Knob and Welcome Creeks) the water was well over 2 feet deep in spots and the current was noticeably stronger. So to answer the question, you can still cross the creek, but it's not as easy as it was before the recent rains. The waterfalls at about 1/2 mile in from the trailhead were really roaring. Lots more water than I saw two weeks ago.

Bill, thanks for the info about signs. If that metal sign that I saw was put there in the 1930s, it's in remarkably good shape. Even if it is only 40 or 50 years old, it is in very good condition. The only other metal sign I can recall is near Twin Lakes and it's badly rusted and hard to read. Another curious thing about the Hawk Mtn. sign is that if it had been attached to that tree for 40 to 70 years, I would have thought that the tree would have grown around it and encased it in a nice bark frame. But that's not the case with this one. Another odd thing is that it is not located at a trail intersection, or at least as far as I could tell there was no other trail coming in at that point. Strange place to put a sign. Sounds like a case for the "Trail Detective."

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Bill Cattrall** : 10/27/2007; 6:14:50 PMReads: 399, Responses: 3 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I wonder if it was moved from the top of the trail at some point. The miles would make more sense if it was there. Good point about the tree growing around it, there is a wood sign at a lake that I took a picture of that is almost unreadable because of that. The Forest Service must know when it made it's trails, or maybe the CCC made some for them. For this trail to get to Hawk Mt. it would of used Scorpion Mt. to Rho ridge and then north to Hawk Mt. There are a bunch of trails south of the Bull of the Woods area, Fox Creek, East fork way, Janus Butte, Mansfield Mt., Scorpion Mt., Scorpion Ridge, Hunter Creek, Twin meadows, Round Lake(south of Round lake to Cachbox meadows), and a few more that I can't make out the names of because they drew in roads over the old names. I may have some time next week to see if I can find the top of trail 563.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Donovan** : 10/28/2007; 6:50:20 PMReads: 420, Responses: 2 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I believe this 563 Trail might be a later development of part of a the major east west route the Mollala used to get to the Klamath Trail. It is referred to in some places as the "Mollala Trail". Eventually, it may be possible to piece enough trail, old trail and road together to walk from the west end of Table Rock Wilderness to Olallie country, just as the Indians.

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Doug Firman** : 11/8/2007; 4:22:43 PMReads: 406, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I checked out this trail a little bit more yesterday and brought my camera along this time. Here is a photo of the **trail sign** located a short distance from the Elk Lake Creek crossing at Battle Creek shelter. Like I said before, it might be 12 miles to Hawk Mountain from there, but it sure isn't 8 miles to Elk Lake, unless you take some sort of scenic route. (Well, all the routes are scenic out there, but you know what I mean).

I followed the flagging for about 3/4 mile until the rhododendron thickets wore me down. I was sceptical that the trail was located where the flagging was in these thickets, but then I would come across an old blaze in a tree marking the trail. My hat's off to whoever was able to find this trail among all that undergrowth. Here's a photo of the **tread** in a more open location.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Trail 563?****Bill Cattrall** : 11/8/2007; 9:14:34 PMReads: 367, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Doug,

The sign is just like the one that Jerold Williams placed in the '30s and he did say that they were indestructable in normal use, I guess nobody has looked at it in a long time. Did you hike past the flaging or did it go on?

It might be 8 miles if you go by way of Twin lakes on the Mother lode trail,

could this trail predate the Elk lake creek trail west of Battle creek?

Great work out there.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Doug Firman** : 11/9/2007; 5:31:14 PMReads: 382, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Bill,

The flagging continued on beyond the point where I turned around. I would have liked to have kept going to see how far it would take me, but I needed to turn around so that I could hike the five miles back to the trailhead in daylight. As to the dates of these trails, the only information I have is from "Oregon's Hidden Wilderness" which says that the Elk Lake Creek trail was built in 1932 (for the princely sum of \$950).

You're right, it might be about 8 miles to Elk Lake via Twin Lakes, but it seems unlikely to me that those old-time forest rangers and packers would take such a roundabout route when they could make their way directly up to Elk Lake following the creek, trail or no trail, and save four or five miles. So here's another theory for you: maybe the sign is in the wrong place. The map shows the 563? trail leading up to a trail on the ridge (Scorpion Mtn trail?) which might have followed the ridgeline over to Elk Lake. Don't know if that would be 8 miles or not, but possibly. That sign where it's located right now does not appear to be at a trail junction, which seems a little odd. How it got there, I don't know, but I can't help but wonder if it really wasn't meant to be there. Maybe it should be at the trail junction up on the ridge. Just a theory.

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Robert Koscik** : 11/9/2007; 10:15:48 PMReads: 405, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Great pics Doug, thank you very much! Seein those abandoned trails makes my pulse race. You'd be amazed how much improvement is made with some sweat and a pair of loppers. Well, at least you can follow the route. Those Rhodies cut like buttah. Vine maples, ouch...

Thinkin about heading up to Fish Cr Mountain tomorrow, am I crazy? But I need outa town like nobody's business, been a hell of a few weeks...

Donovan I like when you say "yum" to the thimbleberries, made me smile!

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Bill Cattrall** : 12/1/2007; 10:23:01 AMReads: 343, Responses: 2 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I had the thought of looking for information on the mining the area of the "563" trail to see how old the trails might be. It seems that after the Indians the miners came next. The upper Little North Fork of the Santiam area was first prospected around 1890 with most of the mines that were developed dating within a ten year period.

The area around the trail had the Pansy Group- Lily, Pansy Blossom and Pansy Blossom Extension- Surveyed in 1890.

Humbug Mining and Milling Co., just west of the junction of the Dunlap Lake branch of Humbug creek, no date but listed in a 1903 reference. Mother Lode Group, these are at the junction of trails 573 and 558, dated 1890.

Dunlap Mine, just north of the saddle immediately north of Gold Butte, and above the road to the lookout at Gold Butte, first located in 1904. Russell-Ritter mine, 1 mile NE of Dunlap Lake on the Gold Butte lookout road about 100 yards to a sign for "Ritter Trail" and 1 mile on Ritter trail. The property was known as the Humbug in 1903. In the history listing they state; "Outcrops were located 50 years ago(written in 1951) by members of the Russell family. Not until about 1932, when Elk Lake road was built, making property accessible, was any development undertaken."

So the Elk Lake road(if you can call it that) dates from about the same time as the trail up Elk Lake creek as stated in the Hidden Wilderness book, 1930 for \$950. That makes the creek trail one of the newest in that area perhaps. I know from walking the old version of 573 that the Elk Lake trail seemed a newer better built trail. If trail 563 is older than

Elk Lake trail then 8 miles from the mystery sign might make sense. Rob, this last mine the Russell-Ritter is the tunnel that you and Kevin saw on the map. They say, "The work done consists of a tunnel 70 feet long on the first vein where ore was being taken out in drifting, and sent to the mill. A small amount of ore has been removed from an open cut on the vein above the tunnel. On the second vein, a crosscut tunnel about 86 feet long intersects the vein in about 40 feet, and a short drift has been run about 20 feet to the southeast at this point." They wanted to blast closed these old tunnels for safety so there may be nothing there and many are not safe its true.

My list of things to explore in the spring is getting longer and longer.
Bill

The information about mines came from the Oregon Metal Mines Handbook, #14D, dated 1951, by the State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?

Doug Firman : 12/2/2007; 4:57:09 PM

Reads: 345, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Bill,

Were the miners looking for gold and silver? With peaks named Gold Butte and Silver King Mountain in the area, that seems like a good guess. I wonder if "Mother Lode Creek" was named based on what some miner found or just wishful thinking. There is the remnant of a mining operation off the Mother Lode trail just past the junction with Twin Lakes trail. The FS calls it the Porcupine Mine. There's not much to see, just some rails and a rusty wheel or two. I didn't see a tunnel. Doesn't look like those guys found the mother lode at that spot. "Oregon's Hidden Wilderness" mentions the remains of a miners cabin near the trail junction, but I haven't seen it.

[Discuss this message.](#)

Re: Trail 563?**Bill Cattrall** : 12/2/2007; 8:42:31 PMReads: 326, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Doug,

They must have been looking for gold and silver and they did find some but not much.

Area:"The three claims, surveyed in 1890 for the Cascade Gold and Silver Mining Company consisting of the Mother Lode, Mother Lode extension, and a mill site on the main creek 1,000 feet to the east."

Location: "SE1/4 NW1/4 sec. 21, T.8 s., R. 6 E., on the west side of Mother lode or Gold Creek, about 2 miles north of its junction with Battle Creek, at an elevation of 3,700 feet. Reached by a trail about 5 miles from the road at Dunlap Lake.

Development: "A crosscut tunnel runs S. 35 degrees W. for about 50 feet beneath the bed of a small creek, then turns and S. 20 degrees E. for at least 30 feet more, as far as the tunnel was accessible. Up the creek to the southwest the vein is exposed on both sides by shallow open cuts.

A cabin, now caved in, is about 500 feet south of these openings up the hill on the trail. There are remnants of what appear to be some type of homemade steam boiler and a large number of firebrick below the end of the lower dump."

Under Geology they say: "A sample across 3 1/2 feet was assayed in the Department's laboratory and returned 0.1 to 1.0 % copper, 0.1 to 1.0 % lead, 0.3 ounce silver, trace of gold, and no zinc."

I did find a tunnel twenty+ years ago but didn't spend a lot of time there looking. The mill site on the creek sounds interesting. That is a beautiful creek, I hate to think of it as having mining waste in it. That area will not be as easy to pass through without a long look around the next time I'm up there. The reference to the caved in cabin was written in '51 so not much of it would be left, but I would like to find the spot if possible.

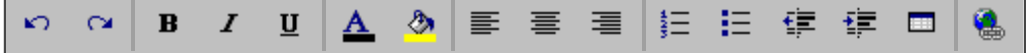
Mother Lode creek has to be wishful thinking by the miners, which is maybe the only prerequisite for being a miner.

Bill

[Discuss this message.](#)

Response text:

Normal	Font	Size
--------	------	------



View HTML Source Use CSS

This Page was last updated: Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 9:42:31 PM
Copyright 2009 [Trail Advocates](#)

[XML](#)

