

Trail Advocates

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

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Cougar Creek Trail

Topic: [Cougar Creek Trail](#) Updated

Author: Donald Presley

Topic Started: 9/21/2009; 10:35:56 PM

Last Posted: 9/24/2009; 6:42:56 AM

Cougar Creek Trail

Donald Presley : 9/21/2009; 9:35:56 PM

Reads: 41, Responses: 4 ([view responses to this item](#))

I spent last Friday night at the Cougar creek trailhead, about 2 miles past the old Twin Springs campground on the 4610 road. Eventhough it is only 50 miles from my house, it takes 2-2 1/2 hours to reach the spot, dodging all the potholes on the 4610. I hadn't been on this end of the trail since last October, and was looking forward to this Saturday for quite sometime. Rob Williams had asked if he could come with me the next time I went, so he arranged to meet me on Saturday morning at the trailhead.

The morning started out cloudy. Rob arrived a little after 7 am, and was amazed at how long it takes to get there. We soon descended into the canyon and it wasn't long after two switchbacks that the tread gives way to bushwacking your way down. This is a 'way trail' so you make your way. My theory on this trail is either a section of tread got obliterated by animals through the years, or that they didn't make any tread in this section because you could see the next point, where the tread begins again, for all of the trees had been romoved by fire. There are no blazes, for there weren't any trees to cut a blaze into, for the most part.

As we got to the point where the tread picks up again it started to sprinkle. Rob took some pictures from the viewpoint above a rockslide before we made our way down following my flagging from my previous outings in the last 2 years. We reached the Roaring River and now it was pretty much just rain. We had brought extra shoes or sandals to cross the river, so we put them on and made our way across the river. We climbed the steep "tread" on the otherside until it brought us onto a flat area above the river and to some flagging that marked the end of my exploration of tread last year.

We picked up the tread right away, fighting the rhodies and other brush, but the the trail was there. I flagged as we went, for I not only wanted to

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mark the tread, but I wanted to find my way back out of there. We went about a half a mile before crossing a small stream we had been paralleling since we crossed the river. That's where I lost the tread we had been following. After circling around the creek area we found that the tread made an abrupt left turn after crossing the creek.

We were onto tread again, but that was short lived, for after a 100 yards or so we lost trace of the tread in bunch of rhodies. Being soaked from all the rain we turned back and followed our flagging back down to the river. We neglected to change our boots, for they were already wet, and just waded across the river. It took close to an hour to reach our rigs after the 2000 foot climb out of the canyon.

Eventhough we got our butts wet, we added tread location to this lost trail, and gave our bodies some needed exercise.

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Re: Cougar Creek Trail

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Rob Williams : 9/22/2009; 6:54:52 AM

Reads: 34, Responses: 0 ([view responses to this item](#))

Even with all the rain, it was a hoot. My boots are still drying out! But that climb back out of the canyon is a killer.....

What an amazing place that is. I really want to explore it some more. Even with the rough treatment it has gotten over the years, it is a beautiful and wild place.

You forgot to mention that I got the pleasure of being stung twice - once on the way in, and once on the way out.....Weird thing, I've never been stung before this year, and so far this fall I've been stung 3 times now.

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Re: Cougar Creek Trail**Robert Kosciak** : 9/23/2009; 6:09:27 AMReads: 25, Responses: 2 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Great stuff! I still want to join you somewhere before the weather drops.

How bad does Twin Springs look? I wonder if camping near the old guard station site would work, although I recall the road being totally overgrown. There are a lot of trails in the area for noplacement to camp...ripping up that camp was ridiculous.

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Cougar Creek Trail****Donald Presley** : 9/23/2009; 5:40:51 PMReads: 20, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

There is a berm along the road with boulders placed at the entrance so you can walk in. I didn't stop and walk in to check it out. There is a campsite at the Plaza Lake trailhead and a couple of spur roads past the campground that they haven't blocked, yet anyway, that you could pull off and camp.

What are you doing this weekend? I am going up to High Lake tomorrow and work on trail. I was thinking about going on the Cougar trail from the south near Signal Buttes on Saturday. Want to come?

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Re: Cougar Creek Trail**Robert Koscik** : 9/24/2009; 5:42:56 AMReads: 18, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I gotta see if the family will let me out of the cage this weekend. I had last weekend off...and we may be picking up our car from the shop, it has been worked on the past few weeks. Wife was ran into by a red-light runner and it was smashed up pretty good. Only needs a new door though, amazing. 1968 Beetle. At least we'll get a new paint job out of the deal.

If not this weekend, what about next? Let's plan something! I know, it's my fault. It's hard to haul way out there for just a day, I haven't done that in a long time. Usually camp for a couple days. Are you staying at Ripplebrook, or are you camping somewhere? Maybe they'd like to go with me, camp up at High Rock. I'll find out tonight.

Speaking of High Rock, what would it take to put a new floor in the outhouse? The rest of the structure is in remarkable condition. I'm no carpenter but would be willing to put some work in.

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