

Notes on trails of the Mt. Hood National Forest - H. Rondthaler - 1970
Taken from early investment records.

Bagby Trail. (Not the present Bagby Trail, which was then called South Fork Mountain Trail). Termini: Oak Grove Ranger Station to Bagby Junction (South Fork Mountain Trail). A "Secondary" trail twenty miles in length, built prior to 1920.

Beaver Creek Trail. Termini: Bears Springs Road to Warm Springs Indian Reservation. Built as a "Secondary" trail eight miles long. Prior to 1920.

Badger Creek Trail. Termini: Gumjuwac Saddle to Road (probably North-South Road at Bonney Crossing). Built as a secondary trail nine miles long, in 1918. I believe the mileage is a little bit short and believe that this trail traversed Gumjuwac Creek, then Badger Creek.

Bear Creek Trail. Built as a "Secondary" trail. Termini: Lava Bed to Bear Creek. Two and one-half miles. Built prior to 1920.
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Bennett Pass Trail. Termini: Barlow Pass to Boulder Ridge. Built as a "Secondary" trail, ten miles in length. Prior to 1920.
??????? Does not fit anything I know, but I do know that there was a secondary trail from Barlow Pass to Bennett Pass, and I am pretty sure that it still exists in reasonably good condition. It needs to be found.

Benson Trail. Termini: Herman Creek Trail to Wahtum Lake. Built as a "Secondary" trail, eleven miles long, in 1930. The investment record indicates total cost at \$2100, and informs us that the purpose of the this trail was 40% for recreation, 50% for protection and 10% for some other purpose, not recorded. I believe that this trail was built with Federal Roads and Trails Funds and that the 40, 50 and 10 percent figures ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ tell us what purposes the trail was intended to serve, *not what funds paid for it.*

Big Bend. Secondary trail. Built in 1924. (On present Columbia Gorge District). Inside Bull Run Reservation.

Bull Run Lake Trail. Built prior to 1926 at a cost of \$10,100. Thirteen miles in length. Built to Primary trail standards. (~~Primary as opposed to Secondary standard meant~~ Primary refers to the design standard. Primary trails, and there were very few built, did not exceed 12% grades. Secondary trails, and many miles were built, were trails built with controlling grades of 16%, ~~with~~ *and* pitches of 25% allowed for a distance of two or three hundred feet. On rare occasions, much steeper pitches (40% - 70%) were built into the secondary trails, but such pitches never exceeded 80 feet in length.

Bull of the Woods Trail. A secondary trail. Ten miles in length.
~~Extensive~~ Built in 1925. Termini: Not recorded, but I know it was
from Tom's Meadow Trail to Bull of the Woods (lookout). This was
a fine trail and it came close to meeting Primary standards. Three
miles ~~exists today~~. *of this magnificent trail remains today.*
the rest has been replaced with roads, logging roads,
Once upon a time, the Mt. Hood National Forest ~~had~~ employed a man
named Williamson. His job was to plan forest recreation ~~area~~. He
alone produced more recreation area plans than have ever been produced
since his time. He covered our forest on foot. He ~~built~~ constructed
precise maps, contour maps which are as good today as they were in
his day. ~~He~~ *He* thought "big" and he thought recreation. He could
not ~~conceive~~ other uses for many of our areas which have today ~~become~~
become primarily logging areas. He proposed a wilderness, (not quite
like what we consider wilderness today,) for a vast area in the south
end of the Mt. Hood. His wilderness would have included all the lands
between the Collawash River and the Hot Springs Fork. ~~He~~ *He* proposed a
truck trail to Bagby Hot Springs. He proposed ~~a~~ wilderness which would
have extended from just east of the Collawash River to the Clackamas ~~River~~
It would have included all of Rhododendron Ridge, from bottom to top,
on both sides. He proposed a truck trail up the Collawash River *to Elk Lake.*

Camp Creek Bridle Trail. A Primary trail, 6.0 miles in length, built
by the Civilian Conservation Corps, in 1937.

Cedar Swamp Creek Trail. Beaver Creek to Corral. A secondary trail,
four miles in length, built prior to 1920.

Clackamas River Trail. Termini: Intake to Skyline Road. A secondary
trail built prior to 1920. Length thirty miles. (I believe that this
would be the trail from Three Lynx to Olallie Lake. As I understand it,
there was never a trail built up the Clackamas River from Estacada to
Oak Grove Ranger Station. The main access from Estacada to Oak Grove
was via a trail built from ~~Maxxing~~ Ladee Flat down into Roaring River
then up over Grouse Point and then down to Oak Grove, one hell of a
route, which ~~still~~ exists today.). Ranger Carter's notes (1922-1928)
indicate this.

Clear Creek Trail. Termini: Dry Meadow to Oak Grove Road. A secondary
trail seven miles in length, built prior to 1920.

Crane Creek Trail. A secondary trail, eight miles long, built prior to
1920.

Cub Creek Trail. Built as a secondary trail, twenty-two miles long, in
1920. I believe that this trail ~~later~~ was called Rho Ridge Trail. ~~in part~~
Along with ~~the~~ *what is now the Rho Ridge Trail* Cub Creek Trail, it ran from the Clackamas River near
June Creek down along Rho Ridge, close to what is now called Breitenbush
Saddle, then up past Red, Averill and Sheep Lakes to the present Pacific
Crest Trail, near Sheep Lake.

Devils Peak Trail. A secondary trail built in 1926, four miles long.
Probably extended the 1925 trail built from Summit Ranger Station to
Kinzel Lake.

Divide Trail. A secondary trail. Four miles, built prior to 1920.
(I believe this would be from Flag Point to Lookout Mountain). *At 2413/4*
Today.

1968 WFR

Gumjuwac Saddle Trail. Badger Lake to Gumjuwac Saddle. Built as a secondary trail three miles long, prior to 1920. The instant record indicated its purpose was primarily for recreation. The record states 80% recreation. This trail was abandoned; perhaps in the early 1950's. It is still in good condition and ~~xxxxxx~~ it will be re-opened in the 1970's.

Gumjuwac Saddle, on Barlow Ranger District. Five great trails once ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ joined at this place. One of these trails remains ~~xxxxxx~~ on the Mt. Hood trail system. The five great trails which once traversed this saddle will be returned to our system during the 1970's, for the use of the people of Oregon.

Herman Creek Trail. Built as a primary trail, twelve miles long. Termini: Herman Lake to Wahtum Lake. (Columbia River to Wahtum Lake). The Mt. Hood National Forest has the original plan for this trail, carefully traced on ~~xxxxxx~~ cloth, dated 1913. I believe the trail was built to Wahtum Lake in 1915.

Horseshoe Ridge. Termini: Sandy River to Zigzag Mountain Ridge. Built as a way. (The way standard was 30% to 60%. The idea was to tie together the secondary trail system with paths which one way or another could be traversed by fire-fighters). Built by Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935.

Huckleberry Mountain Trail (Near Lost Lake). Built as a secondary trail, two and one-half miles in length. Prior to 1920. ~~to maintain~~ it today.

Grouse Point Trail. A secondary trail. No mileage given. Built by Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936. I believe that this would be the trail which ran from Indian Ridge to Grouse Point, a distance of about five miles. Grouse Point was designated and emergency ~~xxxxxx~~ fire lookout point in the 1930's.

Larch Mountain Trail. A Primary trail built in 1915. East Side Progressive Businessmen's Club contributed labor. Simon Benson contributed \$3,000.00. The Forest Service contributed \$1500.00 and the services of a mountain man named Ralph Shelly, who located this trail. Portland people who contributed labor for this project ~~xxxx~~ became so ~~xxxxxx~~ devoted to the project that when it was completed; they formed an organization called the Trails Club of Oregon. ~~xxx~~ This club is active today in a movement to preserve ~~xxxxxx~~ the ~~xxxxx~~ the Larch Mountain Trail and other remnants from the past.

Eagle Creek (Estacada) Trail. Built prior to 1920., to secondary standards. Ten and one-half miles long. No termini listed. I would guess that it went from Lee's Ranch to Plaza Ridge Trail. ~~xxx~~ Early grazing permits tell me that this area was used for cattle beginning in 1909. A grazing permit is still in effect for the area today. Our records show that one permittee, a Mr. Peterson, grazed his cattle in Eagle Creek from 1901 until 1929.

Eagle Creek Trail. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Fourteen miles built to Primary standard in 1916. The East Side Progressive Businessmen's Club played an important part in construction of this trail. I am convinced that a Forest Service man named Ralph Shelly located the trail and supervised its building. Original cost was \$18,000.00. In 1935 the Civilian Conservation Corps spent \$44,000.00 on this trail in what was called a betterment project. I don't know what this work involved, but I do know from old photographs, that this betterment must have been relatively minor, for the trail was built much as it is today by the people of Oregon and the Forest Service. Not by the C.C.C.

Elk Cove Trail. A secondary trail five miles long, built in 1924. Termini must have been from some early road to Elk Cove.

Elk Lake (Creek) Trail. A secondary trail eleven miles long built prior to 1920. This description fits it as I knew it in 1950. It traversed the upper Collawash River and then Elk Lake Creek, from Tom's Meadow Trail to Elk Lake.

Elk Meadows Trail. Built to secondary standard. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Eleven miles in length, prior to 1920. This trail has been reduced in length. Originally it went from the flat north of Polallie Creek to Bennett Pass. Mileposts on this trail (still visible today) were ~~carved~~ ^{notched} in the bark of very large trees. These mileposts give me a clue about the original trail termini. This trail traverses and crosses a system of streams which are without a doubt the most beautiful on the Mt. Hood National Forest. The Cold Spring Creek drainage.

Frog Creek Trail. A secondary trail five miles long, built prior to 1920. Termini: Oak Grove Road to White River.

Granite Trail. Probably Granite Peak Trail. Built as a secondary trail, nine miles long in 1927. I used this trail many times in the early 1950's. Termini: Bagby Trail (Granite Forks Shelter) to Cub Creek Trail (Rho Ridge Trail). It passed a place called Fourth of July Shelter, which shelter is still visible from Road S-535. The shelter is now covered with earth and stumps, the residue ~~ad~~ from construction of a logging road which passed close by it. Fourth of July Shelter was a beautiful place. I well remember it as the halfway ~~mark~~ point on this trail. It had a creek beside it and a ~~locked xxxxxx~~ Forest Service padlocked barrel, always well stocked with canned food, for weary trail workers. ~~I think it has~~ ~~never been~~ ~~grossly~~ I think it deserved much more respect than our road builders gave it, when they allowed it to be covered with earth and stumps.

Green Point Trail. Originally built as Indian-Defiance Trail.

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Indian-Defiance Trail. Was a trail in 1920, built at a cost of \$2300., for 13.0 miles. Probably traversed the ridge between Mt. Defiance and Indian Mountain, but the mileage does not seem to be exactly correct.

North Lake Trail was on the trail system in 1920. It is listed as three miles in length. It cost \$450.00. Termini are Mt. Defiance Trail to North Lake and Return. This must have been a loop.

Eden Park Trail. Built in 1923 at a cost of \$1800.00. Nine miles in length. Termini: Cloud Cap to Barret Spur. This would fit the mileage for the original route which can be seen occasionally from the present route.

Devil's Peak - Summit Trail. Twelve miles in length; built at a cost of \$592.00, in 1925. Termini: Summit Ranger Station to Kinzel Lake.

Shellrock Creek Trail. Ten and one-half miles in length. Built prior to 1920 at a cost of \$360.00. Termini: High Rock Road to Oak Grove Fork Trail. I believe this termini was applied later (the investment records I used were from the early 1930's). I know that in 1920, there was no High Rock Road. This road was built in 1929. This is evident from panoramic photographs taken from High Rock Lookout, first in 1927 and later in 1933.

Quartz Butte Trail. Three miles in length, built at a cost of \$280.00. Prior to 1920. Termini: Quartz Butte Road to Sunflower Flat Road.

Willow Creek Trail. Two miles in length. Built prior to 1920. Termini: Beaver Creek Trail to Warm Springs Indian Reservation Boundary.

Short Cut Trail. Built in 1909 at a cost of \$440.00. Two miles in length. Clackamas-Olallie Road to Bear Springs Road. (Cost seems excessive for the times and for the area. It is possible that the investment record mileage represents existing mileage in the early 1930's, and not the original mileage. The termini are too vague to pin down clearly).

Battle Ax Mountain Trail. Two miles, built at a cost of \$270.00, prior to 1920. Termini: South Fork Mtn. Trail (Now Bagby Hot Springs Trail) to Battle Ax Mountain. Built prior to 1920. A note in the investment record states "replaced by a road." This must have been the road from Elk Lake to Beechie Saddle. While this road comes close to Battle Ax Mountain, it was never built to the top.