

ILLEGAL TRAILS: Move will protect vital deer habitat

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animals and tracking where they went to determine such things as habitat preferences, migration routes and causes of mortality. One of her findings was an unequivocal correlation between human activity — especially roads — and disturbing deer, causing them to expend energy they need to survive the winter.

“It’s not just one activity,” said Gregory. “It’s OHVs, mountain bikes, and hikers that all add up. When you have a lot of people out there recreating, it’s going to affect the critters.”

Illegal trails are often poorly constructed, causing environmental damage; and may be unsafe or conflict with hunters, birders and other forest users, according to District recreation team leader Amy Iracki.

The illegal trail system’s effect on cultural resources is also a concern, particularly from erosion that may wash away valuable artifacts. Because deer congregate in the area during the winter, prehistoric people and later Native Americans came here to hunt them, leaving behind projectile points and remains of “processing stations”

where they cleaned their game.

“There are sections of the trail where OHV use has impacted these cultural resources,” said Matt Mawhirter, Sisters Ranger District archaeologist.

Officer Fred Perl, the District’s law-enforcement officer, is seeing signs of increasing use of the trails by mountain bikers.

“The trails are becoming more visible, and what that means to me is that they are becoming more popular and more people are using them,” said Perl.

Since there are residences in Stevens Canyon there have also been occasional complaints of trespassing from the trails onto private property adjacent to the National Forest, and a large segment of the trail was actually built on privately owned forestlands.

Forest Service staff have placed signs at trail entry points informing trail users that the system was illegally built and is being closed. Students from the Sisters High School Interdisciplinary Environmental Expedition Class helped identify trail access points and marked their locations with GPS coordinates. The Forest Service will obliterate these trail entry points with berms, logs and boulders. Work will be completed by September.

The Stevens Canyon trail

system decommissioning is part of a larger project, called the Garrison Project, to improve wildlife habitat in the National Forest portion of the winter range that will include forest thinning and other vegetation management work.

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— Sara Gregory

The Forest Service is supportive of mountain bike trails on the Sisters Ranger District, but wants future trail systems to be sustainable in that they take into consideration other forest values and minimize their impacts on important resources like wildlife and archeological sites.

“I think that can work,” said Gregg. “We just need to identify the impacts, and then we can bring it all together.”

For more information contact District Wildlife Biologist Monty Gregg at the Sisters Ranger District, 541-549-7724.

Quilt Show will offer feature exhibits

Featured Quilter, Inspirational Instructor and Machine Quilter Showcase special exhibits are scheduled on Quilt Show Day.

Teri Wood, featured quilter, is honored for her growing body of work and artistry. A resident of Sisters, Wood has designed and created the 2016 Raffle Quilt, “A Walk in the Pines.” The exhibit of her quilts will be on display on the lawn of Ponderosa Properties, located at the corner of West Hood Avenue and South Ash Street.

Rob Appell, Inspired Instructor, is an instructor, author and quilt designer for Michael Miller Fabrics. Always a favorite instructor at Quilter’s Affair, he has taught classes in Sisters and volunteered for the Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show for the past six years. He is the host of weekly video tutorials you can see at his YouTube site, “Man Sewing with Rob Appell.” Rob will be displaying the unique quilt “And the Flag was Still There,” a

quilt created for benefit auction to support the Oregon regional office of Operation Homefront, which supports service members’ families.

Sandy Lachowski is featured in the Machine Quilter Showcase 2016. Lachowski and her business, Best in Show Quilts, are known regionally for the fine art and detailed craft she puts into finishing quilting for her clients. The exhibit of her work will be on display at the Three Creeks Building at the corner of West Hood Avenue and South Ash Street.

Kathy Doughty returns from Australia and her shop there, Material Obsession, to teach at Quilter’s Affair, and as Featured Lecturer presented by Freespirit Fabrics. Doughty’s quilts will be exhibited among the pines on the FivePine campus Sunday, July 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Her walking tours and lecture sold out four months in advance. However, self-guided tours are possible between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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