

## WAHOO! The East ART is scheduled to begin!

BY DIANA COOGLE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has given the Applegate Trails Association (ATA) the go-ahead for building the East ART,



Hiking the East ART with ATA.

the eastern-most leg of the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail between Cathedral Hills in Grants Pass and the Jacksonville Woodlands.

After years of doing the preliminary work of meeting BLM criteria, jumping through their hoops, writing grants, and raising money, we are so excited! We plan to start trail construction by the end of March. We're planning some work-party days for all enthusiastic trail builders who want to help with this project, tentatively set for April 1, April 30, and May 21. Watch our website ([applegatetrails.org](http://applegatetrails.org)) or our Facebook page for more details.

Although our energy is now going towards the actual trail building, we are still planning to hold some hikes this summer. On May 13, Mike Kohn will lead a hike up Mule Mountain. On June 11, Alex Weinbrecht will lead an equestrian "hike" on a trail of her choosing, and

on July 9, Diana Coogle will lead a hike up Mount Elijah, when the wildflowers should be in full bloom on one of the best wildflower hikes in this

part of the Siskiyou.

**ATA has also booked some showings of our film, *Walking the Wild Applegate*, directed by Tim Lewis, about the thru-hike ATA board members Josh Weber and Luke Ruediger made along the route of the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail. The film was shown at the Siskiyou Film Festival in February. Upcoming showings are Friday, March 3, at Three Rivers Outdoor store in Grants Pass and Wednesday, April 12, at the Jackson County Horseman's Association meeting. Contact Alex Weinbrecht at [alex@applegatetrails.org](mailto:alex@applegatetrails.org) for more information if you are interested in attending one of these showings.**

In addition to Applegate Trails Association t-shirts, ATA will have some handsome caps for sale at any of our events. Look for them when you're there!  
Diana Coogle • [dicoog@gmail.com](mailto:dicoog@gmail.com)

## We got dirty with construction of the Jack-Ash Trail!

BY NEAL ANDERSON

The Jack-Ash Trail, which will connect Jacksonville and Ashland along the ridgelines between Anderson Butte and Wagner Butte, has begun with construction of Phase 1. This trail is designed for people who want to enjoy the outdoors by leg-powered (nonmotorized) means—hikers, runners, bicyclists, equestrians, bird-watchers, and people who just want to mosey along. The views are awesome, and the diverse ecosystems include mature woodlands, open grasslands, and summer shade.



SUTA's first trail work party in November 2016.

**After years of planning** by the Siskiyou Upland Trails Association (SUTA) and the Medford Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the community actually began constructing the Jack-Ash in late 2016 with help from the BLM staff, the Northwest Youth Corps crew, and several dozen SUTA volunteers. People were jazzed at just how much solid, passable trail they had constructed in one morning. Within a month, some gentle slopes with red flagging had been transformed into a flat dirt trail weaving along hillsides.

**Local crews will be hired** to construct more of the trail in early 2017 with financial support from Title II grants and other fundraising. Portions will be open for foot traffic in mid-2017, with use by bicyclists and equestrians to follow after the trail has solidified a bit. We are constructing more than four miles out of a total of 15 miles of new trails for Phase 1 of the Jack-Ash. The trail will allow users to make many loops with the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail and the existing networks of BLM roads and trails.

SUTA organizes work parties on the Jack-Ash Trail and the Sterling Mine Ditch Trail, designated by Oregon Parks



Creating a pathway on the Jack-Ash Trail.

and Recreation as southern Oregon's first Scenic Trail. The first trail-work party was held on February 18; future work parties will take place on Saturday, March 18, and Saturday, April 22, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. SUTA serves mid-morning snacks and lunch. For details, see [sutaoregon.org](http://sutaoregon.org).

**Come enjoy the trails,** and join us at the light-hearted yet constructive work parties. If you would like to donate, please log onto [sutaoregon.org](http://sutaoregon.org). Especially consider joining us for the work party on April 22, when you will be able to see a large chunk of the newly constructed Jack-Ash Trail.

Neal Anderson  
[ngeoanders83@wildblue.net](mailto:ngeoanders83@wildblue.net)

### Trail horse trials at Pacifica

If you are looking to spice up your trail rides or show your partnership between you and your horse, you will enjoy the Grayback Brushriders Trail Horse Trials on May 7, 2017, at Pacifica, 14615 Water Gap Road, Williams. The trials involve a three-hour ride, about seven miles long, with judged obstacles and situations one might encounter along a trail anywhere. The first rider will go out at 9 am.

Riders are judged on how well the horse and rider negotiate the obstacles, with emphasis on safety and calmness. The entry fee is \$20 preregistration and \$25 the day of the ride. For rules and entry forms, email [trottingalongmelody@gmail.com](mailto:trottingalongmelody@gmail.com) or call Kay Johnson at 541-846-6077.

Over the past years, Pacifica has played host to many horse events, such as Saddle-up for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Poker Rides, fundraisers, Trail Horse Trials, seminars and clinics. Pacifica is a scenic 400-acre facility with beautiful views and a very diverse environment, perfect for horses and riders.

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