

**From:** [Barb Adams](#)  
**To:** [FS-comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood](#)  
**Subject:** File 1900, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Eagle Creek in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness  
**Date:** Friday, November 2, 2018 2:26:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [Eagle Creek comment letter 2018.docx](#)

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Attached is a comment letter from Oregon Equestrian Trails.

We look forward to working with you.

Barb Adams  
Oregon Equestrian Trails  
503-695-3399



Date: November 2, 2018

To: Mt. Hood National Forest

Re: File Code: 1900, Wild and Scenic Rivers

From: Barb Adams, Oregon Equestrian Trails

In response to the letter dated September 24, 2018, Oregon Equestrian Trails is submitting comments in regard to Eagle Creek in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. OET fully supports the Wild and Scenic Designation for the protection Eagle Creek in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness.

As noted in the letter, Eagle Creek is remarkable in the area of botany. For the equestrian community, Eagle Creek Trail #501 is a treasure that follows Eagle Creek to the junction with Eagle Creek Cut-off. Trail #501 is a fairly level trail once you get into the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, and offers a chance to ride among many different plant communities and stunning old growth trees. Enter it during 100 degree weather and you will have a pleasant day, as the creek and trees keep the canyon cool. We have met equestrians from Washington State, and many local equestrians look forward to riding Eagle Creek Trail. Trail #501 is also open much earlier than many wilderness trails.

In addition to the outstanding experience of riding Eagle Creek #501, the trail is also part of a 26 mile loop opportunity in the Salmon-Huckleberry. Though most of our rides on #501 have been connected to trail clearing and maintenance, they are always one of our favorite rides of the year. When we run out of time or trail work, the ride out offers another chance to absorb the beauty and spirit of this canyon, see the flash of horses gliding through the trees, and feel the power of our equines as they climb the steep old road once we leave the Wilderness.

In addition to supporting the Wild and Scenic values, there are recreational opportunities that we support:

1. An expanded and signed place for equestrians to park. Explanation: The trailhead is too small for trailers and offers very little room for hikers. Horse Trailers are parked about a mile before the hiker TH. That is not a problem for distance, but signage and more room will help ensure that trailers do not get stuck going too far on the entry road.
2. The Harvey Road entrance is extremely rough with HUGE potholes. These roads pass through private timber land and currently offer a substantial barrier to access by hiker vehicles and horse trailers.
3. An excellent loop could be created by doing a connector trail between #501 and Plaza Trail. This has been discussed on and off for many years and at one point was even flagged. This would provide a loop option from the larger Douglas Trailhead.

Thank you for protecting Eagle Creek in the Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness. We look forward to working with you on improvements connected to recreation for both hikers and equestrians, and protection of Eagle Creek and the surrounding area.

**Barb**

Barb Adams

Oregon Equestrian Trails

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