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Title:

Comments: I am writing on behalf of the members of Oregon Equestrian Trails' Central Oregon Chapter. Our mission is to build and maintain trails and horse camps and preserve recreational equestrian access to public lands.

We support the Mill Creek Dry Forest Restoration Project and applaud your efforts to improve forest health, riparian conditions, and wildlife habitat and reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfire. We also support the reinforcement of road closures to motorized vehicle traffic.

The project encompasses Dry Creek Horse Camp, the Giddy Up Go Loop, and the Giddy Up Go Tie Trail. It also includes a recently-approved but as yet unnamed loop trail that runs along the 3370-235 Road and ties into the 3370 Road via another closed road (sorry, we don't know its number) that parallels the 3370 Road. We have some thoughts about the Mill Creek project as it relates to these facilities.

1.Before you start work near Dry Creek Horse Camp or the Giddy Up Go trails, please notify us so we can let the equestrian community know to temporarily avoid the area.

2.If damage occurs to the Giddy Up Go Loop or Giddy Up Go Tie Trail, please repair it.

3.We understand that logging trucks may need to use the closed forest roads on which the recently-approved equestrian loop runs. If possible, avoid armoring these roads with large-diameter rock, as this will make the route impassable for horses. If you must armor any road sections, please clear a 2-foot wide corridor along the roadbed after completing the veg management project. This will allow horses to safely and comfortably bypass the rocky area once the trail is open for use.

4.Please retain the large trees around the horse camp and in a corridor along the sides of the Giddy Up Go Loop and Tie trails and the recently-approved trail. This will ensure that the camp and trails can continue to offer an enjoyable experience for horseback riders.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this project.