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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I submit these comments representing the non-profit organization Mustangs To The Rescue (MTTR). Mustangs To The Rescue is grateful that the Corral Flat trails are being formally recognized through this project.

Because MTTR is a current permittee with the Forest, having operated the Bandit Springs Trails Weekend for most of the last decade, we are intimately familiar with issues that have arisen regarding the trails in the area. We encourage the Ochoco National Forest to take advantage of our history in the area. We are eager to support this project in whatever ways are beneficial.

*Because of our long term involvement with the Bandit Springs Trails Weekend, we know that some of the mapping in this proposal is not completely accurate. We are happy to show Forest personnel the details of the trails we've been using historically and highlight some issues that may be considered.

*The Bandit Springs / Corral Flat trail system travels in and out of the Big Summit Wild Horse Territory. Because neither the trail users nor the wild horses know where the Wild Horse Territory boundaries are, we would appreciate some educational efforts to keep everyone safe. We have experienced a significant wild horse interaction during our endurance riding event an average of once every five years. Mustangs To The Rescue continues to be prepared for response and eager to help the Forest with these occurrences.

*It is critical to us that the Forest develop policies and procedures to handle any potential conflicts between the public and wild horses. An example is that riders need to know who to call when they observe wild horses being harassed by forest visitors as well as when the presence of wild horses is for some reason problematic for any people.

*Similarly, we'd like the Forest to make public the procedures for any potential conflict or issue that trail users may experience. An example is who does one call when encountering a downed cow on the trail?

As an individual, I have helped the Ochoco National Forest in a variety of ways for the past 25 years. This has included operating and participating in the Wild Horses Census beginning in 1999, operating the Winter Wild Horse Sweep for the few years it operated, catching and removing specific wild horses at the request of the ONF, removing domestic horses that appear to have been dumped by the public in or near the Wild Horse Territory, finding and reporting where federally listed noxious weeds have gained a foothold, participating in trail work and planning, and being available for countless meetings and processes that aim to improve public lands management in whatever way benefits the Forest and the public. This personal history developed into MTTR's mission "to help local, state, and federal agencies manage horses and horse populations, wild and otherwise."

Mustangs To The Rescue stands ready to assist the Forest whenever asked.

Thank you,

Kate Beardsley

Executive Director

Mustangs To The Rescue