

Motorcycle riders keep trails open

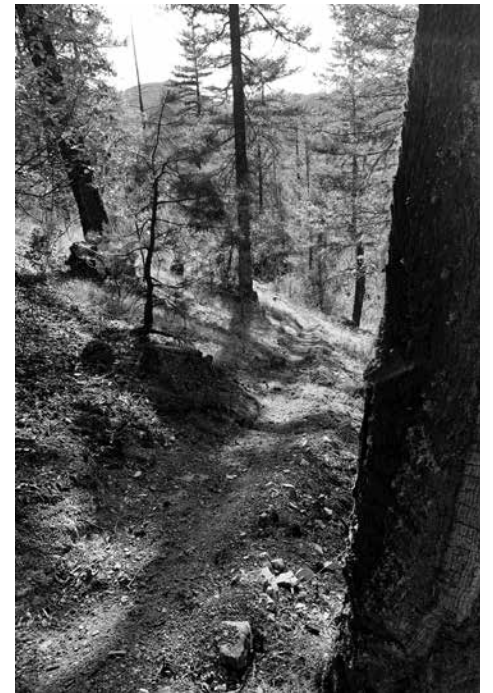
BY CHUCK STEAHLY

The Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA) has been helping the US Forest Service maintain trails in the Applegate for more than 40 years. Motorcycles are a great way to access trails while carrying tools, such as chain saws, McLeods (a large rake-hoe combination), handsaws, and pruners. Because we can quickly get to trouble spots, maintenance is much more efficient than on foot. MRA volunteers donate hundreds of hours of work per year to the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

A number of trails in the mountains around Applegate Lake are multiuse, are open to motorcycles, and have been happily shared with nonmotorized users since they were built decades ago. Many are old mining and fire lookout supply trails that are now used for recreation. MRA does the majority of fallen tree removal, brush clearing, and drainage



The Motorcycle Riders Association uses a backhoe to help maintain trails in the Applegate.



Motorcycle Riders Association volunteers help maintain trails like this one in the Applegate.



Volunteers from MRA work to maintain trails in the Applegate.

repair on all of these shared trails. Some of these trails are popular with hikers and mountain bikers as well as motorcyclists, such as the Stein Butte, Boundary, Little Grayback, Summit Lake, and Cook and Green trails. Other more remote or difficult trails, such as New London, Carlton Pasture, and Charlie Buck have light hiker use, but offer the challenge that motorcycle riders with advanced skills enjoy.

This year the MRA, working with Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District,

as part of the Applegate Watershed Restoration Project, has rebuilt two sections of abandoned trails. The lower section of the Charlie Buck Trail and the Cinnabar Mountain Trail, both accessed off of Beaver Creek Road, are now open to single track users. This rebuilding required a lot of tread work, some of it done by hiring a work crew, some by MRA volunteers, and some by MRA members using a single-track trail-building machine. Funding for this project was provided by a Yamaha Outdoor Access Grant. MRA volunteers contributed more than

200 hours of unpaid work to complete this project.

The MRA was created in 1965 to promote the responsible use of off-road motorcycles and ATVs. We are a nonprofit, family-oriented club centered in Jacksonville and serving all of southwest Oregon. We own about 1,300 acres next to the Jacksonville Woodlands and work with the City of Jacksonville to offer a wide range of recreation opportunities, motorized and nonmotorized, to the public.

Chuck Steahly
csteahly@aol.com

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