

**TRAIL DESIGN**

*Continued from page 1*

Though the Upper Applegate Trail was not authorized in the Final UAW Decision Notice, the decision did contain language that committed the US Forest Service (USFS) to further analysis of this highly popular, community-driven project. The UAW Decision Notice stated, "Although this decision does not include the development of this nonmotorized trail, the district is committed to completing the design and consultation so that a future decision would be made to add this trail to the USFS trail system."

"The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District staff are working closely with the Applegate Neighborhood Network to finalize and map the proposed trail location, including a recent joint on-site visit to some of the potential areas of concern," Jen Sandborn, district ranger, said in a statement. "We anticipate adding this project to USFS's future program

of work, which would include resource specialist's evaluations, consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service over possible impacts to Threatened or Endangered species and the State Historic Preservation Office regarding protection and interpretation of the historical and cultural features, and review by the US Forest Service's Regional Office concerning any impacts to the Inventoried Roadless Area. There would be public review as well before I would make a decision whether or not to implement the trail project."

As currently designed, the southern end of the Upper Applegate Trail will begin at Kanaka Flats, just below Applegate Dam, and traverse historic mine ditches on easy grades through oak woodlands above the Upper Applegate River, with views of the river below, rugged foothills, and the Red Buttes. The area between ditches that requires new trail construction will wind through forests and along ridges between Kinney Creek and Palmer Creek. After crossing Palmer Creek Road, the trail will again use ditches, connecting into the historic Palmer Ditch until it meets up with the Gin Lin Trail.

Janeen Sathre, a Palmer Creek resident and co-author of *Favorite Hikes of the Applegate*, has a deep connection to the area of the proposed Upper Applegate Trail.

She hopes to be one of the first to hike this new trail and says, "What a great trail this is—or could be—for us to enjoy and learn about the forest, the mountains, the valley, and the history of the Applegate."

Approximately 3.5 miles of the proposed 9.3-mile Upper Applegate Trail is on the berm of an old mining ditch.

Those sections of trail not on existing roadbed or mine ditch will require new construction. These sections have been designed to meet sustainable trail standards by using well-designed switchbacks for grade control and staying on contour as much as possible in the deep canyons and steep mountainsides to reduce erosion and mitigate potential hydrological impacts.

"We found only two locations where small amounts of trail tread might be developed to access the old mine ditch. Both are short and have a pretty low gradient. In two other locations, we also found larger ditch blow-outs where the ditch no longer exists and we will need to do new trail construction to patch the ditch together," said Luke.

Mark Hamlin, board chairman of Applegate Trails Association, says "I look forward to hiking the Upper Applegate Trail. The ATA board supports the proposal and development of this project that connects with existing trails."

Suzie Savoie  
Upper Applegate  
klamathsiskiyou@gmail.com



A view of the Applegate River from the proposed Upper Applegate Trail, with Mule Mountain on the horizon. Photo: Suzie Savoie.



Hiking the proposed Upper Applegate Trail with Mule Mountain and Little Grayback in the background. Photo: Luke Ruediger.



Hiker Luke Ruediger on an old ditch berm that's part of the proposed Upper Applegate Trail route. Photo: Suzie Savoie.

**Southern Oregon Rural Specialists!**  
**Farms, Ranches**  
**All Rural Properties**  
**Your Town and Country Realtors**  
*Serving Josephine & Jackson Counties*

**Paula Sepolpo** Principal Broker/Notary  
**Jesse McNamara** Broker  
**Ann James** Broker

Not pictured: Josephine Harrison, Owner, and Wensdae Davis, Broker.

**PINE-ROK REALTY** MEMBER **MLS**  
 P.O. Box 203 • 165 Tetherow RD  
 Williams, OR 97544 Office: (541) 846-7131

**forestfarm**  
**NURSERY**  
 14643 Water Gap Rd, Williams, OR • (541) 846-7269 • forestfarm.com

**Destination Applegate!!**

**Join Applegate Valley's Vacation-Rental Owners to:**

- \* Work together to create more overnight stays in Applegate Valley
- \* Create great experiences for all visitors
- \* Learn from others and share what you know about running a successful vacation rental in Applegate Valley
- \* Work collectively with Land-Use Consultants to clarify the permitting process
- \* Become part of **A Greater Applegate's Business Network**
- \* And, so much more...

To join **Destination Applegate!!**  
 Contact Gina Savage  
 Gina@AGreaterApplegate.org  
 541-941-4951

Follow the *Applegater* on Twitter  
[twitter.com/ApplegaterNews](https://twitter.com/ApplegaterNews)