

Trail Advocates

of the Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mount Hood National Forest

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Short trail to Collawash River

Topic: Short trail to Collawash River

Author: Doug Firman

Topic Started: 8/2/2007; 8:16:25 PM

Last Posted: 8/9/2007; 7:42:04 AM

Short trail to Collawash River

Doug Firman : 8/2/2007; 7:16:25 PM

Reads: 174, Responses: 4 ([view responses to this item](#))

On Forest Road 6380 (which is the approach to the Elk Lake Creek trailhead) there is a short trail which leads from the road down a steep slope to a terrace near the Collowash River. This trail is located about ½ mile downstream of the bridge crossing the river. The trail is not evident from the road except for the flagging that someone has hung on the trees. Someone (maybe someone from Clackamas Trail Advocates?) has done some maintenance on this trail within the past few years, cutting through the blowdown and hanging flagging along the trail. This ¼ mile or so of trail appears to be a constructed trail, with a level tread dug out of the hillside and a constant grade down the hill and may be a remnant of a more significant trail, perhaps one that predated the construction of FR 6380. At the end of the trail there are the remains of a camp of some sort, including a storage box or cabinet made out of wood slats, and a table or work surface. Two walls of the storage box, fastened above ground to two trees, are still in pretty good shape, but the table is mostly rotted away. Could this be a camp that early-day forest rangers might have used as they went about their rounds or whatever they did in the old days? On a couple of maps that I have there is a reference to "Oh Boy Camp" in this general area, so I'm wondering if this might be that camp. Does anyone have any information on this?

Could this be a segment of a trail that once followed the general route up the Collowash joining what is now known as the Elk Lake Creek trail? Trails along that route can be seen on the 1935 and 1946 Mt Hood Forest maps posted on this website as well as on other maps that I have.

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Re: Short trail to Collawash River[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 8/4/2007; 4:04:37 PMReads: 196, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

I have no idea what this could be, but I'm planning on doing a hike tomorrow, and if I have time, I'm going to go take a look at this place. Sounds really interesting.....

Thanks for posting it.

Rob

[Discuss this message.](#)**Re: Short trail to Collawash River**[Edit this Page](#)**Rob Williams** : 8/5/2007; 8:25:45 PMReads: 183, Responses: 1 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Doug:

I took my dog and we went hiking today in the Olallie Lake area. On the way home I decided to detour and see if I could find this place. After a little searching (not too much), I found the trail. Your directions were spot on. If my odometer is correct, it is 1.6 or 1.7 miles from the spot where road 63 Y's into 6370 and 6380.

I'm sure you are correct, this was definitely a trail at one point. I'm not sure if you saw it or not, but toward the top of the trail was a **pressure treated** post that had been chewed up pretty good by something. I'd guess that was the trail sign at some point in the past. I didn't explore too much past the camp, but I'm wondering if the trail continued past that camp?

What a cool place to camp! There were lots of pretty large trees, right on the banks of the Collowash.... Whether or not it was a "historical" camp, it is a very cool place.

How on earth did you ever find it?

Thanks again for sharing.....It was a great way to wind up my day.....

Rob

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Re: Short trail to Collawash River**Doug Firman** : 8/6/2007; 8:39:40 AMReads: 166, Responses: 0 ([↩](#) view responses to this item)

Rob,

It wasn't really me that found this trail. Someone had been there before me and had flagged it and it was the flagging by the road that I noticed. It's been two or three years since I first explored down there, so it's been at least that long and probably longer since persons unknown located it and marked it. Whoever it was had to have been looking for it because it is well hidden by a wall of second-growth fir trees along the road.

It's my guess that the trail crossed the river near this camp and continued on up the river and then up Elk Lake Creek. Last week I followed the river upstream from the camp to the bridge, but did not see any sign of a trail. I was really just interested in enjoying the river, but one of these days I'll go back and poke around more carefully to see if there's any sign of a trail on the other side. I might also look around on the uphill side of 6380. Maybe there's more of the trail to be found on the uphill side. I'm not real hopeful, though. With all the logging that was done in that area, it's surprising that even this little remnant of trail down to the river still exists.













Doug

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Re: Short trail to Collawash River**Robert Koscik** : 8/9/2007; 6:42:04 AMReads: 185, Responses: 0 ([↩ view responses to this item](#))

Looking at the old map I think yer right on the money. The trail from Elk Lake used to parallel the Collawash before the road was built and I think you've found a piece of the historic route. There have been a couple places I've seen down the Clackamas where segments of former trails exist in the general location of a "new" road. Grading and curve requirements are different for roads vs trails so there is usually a trace of the former route. Some times the trail exists right next to the road for a few miles. Cool find! It would be great to link up all these old routes again. Who knows what the future holds after these clearcuts heal?

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