

## **PEREGRINE TRAIL**

### **RATED MODERATE TO DIFFICULT**

August 2013

This 3 mile trail (1.5 miles out and 1.5 miles back) follows an old steep mining road from Bishop Creek Road to the ridge separating the Bishop Creek drainage from the Poorman Creek drainage. Peregrine Trail connects to the proposed Applegate Ridge Trail (ART). The mining road was constructed in 1975 to access the now caved in hard-rock mine located high on the mountainside (1.25 miles from the trail head). This steady up-hill hike with some steep sections (up to 35%) is entirely on the old mining road and BLM managed lands. With 1000 feet of elevation gain the reward is excellent views of Ruch, the Applegate Valley and the mountain peaks beyond. BLM fuel reduction treatments on the open slopes along some of the trail allows for off trail hiking across the open grassy slopes. The upper Woodrat Mountain paragliding launch site is visible to the south through much of the hike.

The **trailhead** parking area is an unimproved pull out on BLM property. Please be aware of private property boundaries near the trail and use caution when parking to avoid contacting dry grass with the exhaust system on your car. Adjacent to the parking area is the site of the former Owen Timmon's mining claim cabin. The remaining traces of the former home site are a couple of iron pipes sticking out from the ground and some spring bulbs that still bloom in season. LaVera Timmons was very close to nature and would always be sure her pet deer had a yellow ribbon around its neck each hunting season. Across the creek there once stood a large log cabin the government burnt down. Many buildings, lookouts and cabins were destroyed in the 1960's primarily to keep the "hippies" out of them.

From the **trailhead** parking area follow the mining road/trail going up, bearing northwest, above and paralleling Bishop Creek Road. A trench, dirt mound and piles of brush act as barriers to limit Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) access to the trail. (Do not follow the faint track going straight up the draw (northeast) from the parking area). Within approximately 100 yards, the road/trail starts to climb steeply to an intersecting ridge in an open oak savannah, while gaining 200 feet in elevation. (For a side excursion, look closely here for an overgrown track going uphill approximately 200 feet to the location of a large rose quartz vein). The road/trail continues west around a small ridge and into another draw where tailings and sheet metal indicate past mining activity. At the next draw, another miner's road comes in from the left (downhill) which leads to private property. The road/trail continues to cut across the side-hill gaining elevation until hitting a switchback to the right that goes uphill at another significant intersecting ridge line. The road/trail then climbs to the northeast along this ridgeline, first moderately and then steep with Buckhorn Gulch on the left. This stretch of trail was the boundary of a controlled BLM burn which offers many open views of the Bishop Creek drainage and the Applegate Valley. Eventually the road/trail leaves the ridgeline, angling across the forested north side of this ascending ridge. The road/trail continues to climb steeply at times before flattening at the head of a small draw in an area of abundant buckbrush. Again the trail contours along the slope until the mine site is reached in a small stand of conifer trees. Here a deep slot is cut into bedrock on the right of the trail with an old winch post sticking out of the mine tailings that was used to bring ore up out of the mine. Floyd Brown was the last known miner to work this shaft that descended into the earth at a steep angle following the gold quartz vein.

After leaving the mine the road/trail moderately descends into a draw high up in the headwaters of Buckhorn Gulch. Coming out of the draw the trail climbs moderately through an open slope with abundant buckbrush and grasses in the trail before reaching a switchback to the right. There is another 100 feet on the open slope before reentering a forested area. The next switchback to the left is where the road/trail crosses the proposed ART. The ART contours along the side of the slope here and the proposed route is marked by white plastic ribbons tied to branches or tree trunks. Crossing the ART the road/trail continues to climb moderately for approximately 300 feet before ending just below the ridge top at a sign marked 'Private Property. No Trespassing'. Please respect property rights and do not continue on the road/trail beyond the sign. You can explore along the flagged ART to the left (west) out onto a large plateau and burned area known as Burnt Ridge. There is lots of evidence of the miner's excavations and a few pieces of sheet metal mark where a miner's shack once stood. The ART is flagged all the way through to Hwy 238 near Forest Creek but be aware there is a considerable drop in elevation to the highway and you will not come out at your car but on BLM road 38-3-14.1. You could also explore along the flagged ART to the right (south and then east above Bishop Creek) which would bring you out on BLM road 38-2-19.1 off Sterling Creek Road.

Notes:

1. The elevation at the trailhead is approximately 2250 feet and the elevation at the end of the trail is 3228 feet. Including the elevation gained after some of the short downhill portions of the hike the total elevation change during the hike is approximately 1200 feet.
2. The tall grasses on these open slopes can harbor a lot of ticks.
3. The trail is named for Peregrine (Perry) Custance, a Ruch Grade School, McLoughlin Jr. High School and South Medford High track star who lived and trained on Bishop Creek before attending Oregon Institute of Technology. Some of Perry's records still stand today.

**Directions (Suitable for 2 wheel drive vehicles):**

If driving from Jacksonville, travel southwest on Hwy 238 (towards Ruch) approximately 6.5 miles and turn left on Bishop Creek Road (BLM Road 38-3-23).

If driving from Ruch, travel northeast on Hwy 238 (towards Jacksonville) approximately 1 mile and turn right on Bishop Creek Road (BLM Road 38-3-23).

Mile 0.0	Junction of State Highway 238 and Bishop Creek Road. Go east on paved Bishop Creek Road.
Mile 0.8	Pavement ends, fork in road. Go straight over cattle guard <b>on a privately maintained, narrow, rough road.</b> Drive slowly to avoid raising excessive dust. Fork to the right is BLM Road 38-3-23.1 which goes to the Woodrat Mountain paragliding launch sites. Fork to the left is a private driveway.
Mile 1.3	Last house before trailhead is below the road on the right.
Mile 1.45	Enter BLM land.
Mile 1.55	Trailhead parking is in an unimproved area on the left side of the road, across from Pacific Power pole 4061 and adjacent to former Timmon's mining claim and home site.

## GPS Readings

Location	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation
Trailhead parking area	42°14.602'N	123°00.084'W	2046'
Trail turns north and uphill on unimproved steep road	42°14.637'N	123°00.128'W	2061'
Trail flattens at first ridge, overgrown spur trail to right goes approximately 100 yards uphill to large quartz vein	42°14.795'N	123°00.175'W	2269'
Trail crosses first draw, evidence of old mining activity on right	42°14.979'N	123°00.299'W	2203'
Road from private property comes in from left, no trespassing sign	42°14.988'N	123°00.430'W	2243'
Mine tailings with abundant quartz on right. Tailings form a shelf with good views to Applegate Valley	42°15.078'N	123°00.187'W	2483'
Trail angles to left (north) of ridgeline and continues to climb steeply on forested north slope	42°15.104'N	123°00.112'W	2577'
Mine site to right. Slot cut in bedrock and winch post sticking out of rubble at mine shaft entrance.	42°15.207'N	122°59.847'W	2931'
Switchback in open slope covered with buckbrush	42°15.346'N	122°59.734'W	3026'
Trail reenters forest and crosses location of proposed ART trail	42°15.268'N	122°59.669'W	3131'
Trail ends at private property just below the top of the ridge, marked with no trespassing sign	42°15.339'N	122°59.623'W	3228'

This information is provided by the Applegate Trails Association, your local non-profit organization formed to develop a system of hiking, biking and equestrian trails in the mountains of the Applegate Valley. Your support is much appreciated.

See [www.applegatetrails.org](http://www.applegatetrails.org) for more information or to make a donation. Thank you.