

Trip Report
Use this form to report on wilderness trips

Submitted by: Bruce Ebling

Date: 1/24/2018

Report Title: Cummings Creek Wilderness

Route: Where did you go? How many days were you camping?

Hiked the six-mile ridgeline trail from east to west.

Summary: 250 word max

The first mile or so had been brushed back to allow better passage. After that salal and other shrubs, often shoulder high, crowded the trail. Blowdown trees were removed from the trail using primitive tools. No drainage maintenance was detectable. Overall the trail surface was in good condition protected from erosion by a covering of fir needles. The lower half of the trail is over an existing logging road. The roadbed is very visible and ideally would have been obliterated upon receiving a wilderness classification. Large ferns and sapling deciduous trees have begun to grow on the roadbed but the roads' cutbanks and ditches are still a discordant reality.

Wilderness or Wild River: Cummings Creek Wilderness

Management Unit: Siuslaw National Forest

Administrative Location: 3200 SW Jefferson Way
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Head of Administrative Unit: Jerry Ingersoll, Forest Supervisor

Trip Report: Grade the success of the management agency with an A to F letter grade. Comments must support letter grades in each category; skip any category on which you do not want to comment.

A Access; is resource damage occurring on trails and at trailheads.

No significant resources damage was observed.

B Management; regulations, permit systems, education, enforcement actions.

Signage identified the area as wilderness though web postings indicated the use of mountain bikes in the area

C Stewardship; are management actions in accord with best practices in Wilderness management.

Overall the trail experience was good and the areas seems to be managed consistent with Wilderness. However, the section of trail following an abandoned road of some significance is rather out of step with what one might reasonably expect.

A Wilderness; how well is management protecting the wilderness resource.

Perhaps the best description might be benign neglect. There is little evidence of management activity here and, if all's going well, that's pretty much the way it should be.

___ Fire Management, Wildlife Management, Other