

Ashland Newcomers Hiking Group

Hike Schedule for Feb 27 through Mar 20, 2002

Hikes take place on Wednesdays. Meet in Safeway parking lot in Ashland at 9:00 am; car pools will leave for trailhead by 9:05 am. We take a lunch break to allow for social interaction, so bring something to eat and drink. Be prepared for cool and/or damp weather. TH = trailhead

Coordinator: Alex Maksymowicz 482-1964; maksym@jeffnet.org

February 27, 2002: Sterling Mine Trail System: Wolf Gap TH to Armstrong Gulch Road

TH: Proceed west from Phoenix to Sterling Creek Rd; turn left (south) for 7.3 mi; turn left on Armstrong Gulch Rd for 0.3 mi; leave vehicle for shuttle; turn left on Deming Gulch Rd for 2.4 mi to Wolf Gap TH

Estimated drive time: 60 min

Hike description: Trail loses 760 ft elevation in 1.5 mi; thereafter it follows the Sterling Mine Ditch without much elevation change for another 5.2 mi

Distance: 6.7 miles; elev. loss: 760 ft; difficulty: easy—but a little on the long side

At least a portion of the trail along ditch towards Armstrong Gulch has not been maintained for 20+ years and is so blocked by buckbrush as to be impassable. Climb down to ditch from Wolf Gap is quite precipitous in places; BLM is not maintaining this access trail. Don't try this again.

March 6, 2002: Little Grayback Trail

TH: From Ruch travel south on Upper Applegate Road to Applegate Dam; follow the road across the dam for 1.5 mi; turn left for 2 mi to French Gulch divide TH

Estimated drive time: 60 min

Hike description: gentle climb across the southern slopes of Little Grayback Mt toward Squaw Peak; trail length is 5.4 mi, but because shuttle is difficult to set up, we'll turn around part way after stopping for lunch

Distance: around 7 mi; elev. gain: around 800 ft (guess); difficulty: moderate

Climb is not so gentle and goes on forever. Although I enjoyed prehiking it (meeting one polite and considerate trail biker on the way), our group ate lunch and turned back before reaching the pass overlooking the Squaw Lakes.

March 13, 2002: Lost Creek Lake (postponed from February 20, 2002)—hike canceled

TH: From Medford drive 35.5 mi on Hwy 62; turn left on Lewis Rd 1 mi to Lewis Rd TH

Estimated drive time: 60 min

Hike description: mostly level, pretty trail through the woods along the east shore of Lost Creek Lake to an open meadow for lunch (about 3.5 mi). At 2.4 mi a short steep side trip takes us to the Blue Grotto. After lunch, retrace outward route back to the TH. There are occasional short swampy patches along the trail, so wear boots.

Distance: about 7 mi RT; elev. gain/loss: about 200 ft

Hike canceled due to wet weather: low-lying areas would have been too swampy

March 20, 2002: Charly Buck and Mule Mountain Trails (postponed from Nov 21, 2001)

Trailhead: Drive 5.5 miles south of Applegate Ranger Station and leave one car at Mule Mt TH for car shuttle; drive north for 2 miles and turn right on Road 20; after 1.5 miles turn right and drive approximately 3 miles to Charly Buck TH (4 WD recommended)

Estimated drive time: 75 min, allowing for shuttle set up

Hike description: climb 1360 ft in 3 miles along Charly Buck Tr to Mule Mt Tr; descend 2500 ft in 4 miles on Mule Mt Tr; short detour to top of Baldy Peak (4645 ft) is an option

Distance: 7 mi; elev gain: 1360 ft, followed by elev loss of 2500 ft; difficulty: strenuous

This hike was canceled again, probably forever. Some people rebelled against the elevation gain, others, with knee problems, against the elevation loss. In any case, access to the TH is quite difficult, and the car shuttle would take considerable time to set up.

Substitute hike: Lost Creek Trail hike originally scheduled for March 13, 2002