

Wilson Corral Trail – October 25, 2014

This Weekend – Saturday is going to be the only nice day (Do something horsey)

## Cascade ID

7 Day Forecast

[Boise](#)

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	FRIDAY NIGHT	SATURDAY	SATURDAY NIGHT	SUNDAY
						
80%	80%	70%			80%	70%
Rain	Rain	Rain Likely	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Rain	Rain Likely
High: 48 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 51 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 35 °F	High: 43 °F

DAY RIDE – Wilson Corral – West Mountain

Trail Project BNF - Saturday October 25, 2014 (NEW)

Location Boise National Forest - Wilson Corral Trail

10:00 hope to be heading up the trail

Wilson Corral Trail Head [GPS TR#135](#)

Project Leader: Rob Adams [projects@sbbchidaho.org](mailto:projects@sbbchidaho.org) 208-781-0548

Weather in October can make planning projects and rides tricky. October is one of the wetter months and often the nice days are mid week, but once in a while they fall on the weekend. That happened with the Succor Creek power line loop on October 11, 2014 and it happened again on the Wilson Corral ride on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The morning in Sweet, ID started out cool, foggy and a bit gray, but looking to the south west toward Emmett, blue sky was coming. My wife Linda's 65 birthday was on the 24<sup>th</sup> and we celebrated with friends watching BSU football leading to a late night and me not getting my gear together until Saturday morning. The prep included a quick trip to Horseshoe Bend to fuel up the truck before hooking up the trailer and finding two horses who wanted to go for a ride. None wanted to volunteer until the first was caught and tied to the trailer, then the rest all wanted to go too. This all resulted in my not getting on the road until 8:45.

Friday morning I got a call from Nancy Smith, asking about the ride and saying that Shannon and her were considering coming. At that time I said, that we were riding out of the Wilson Corral trail head and did she know how to get there. She said, Shannon does, and we left it at that. A bit after the call I sent them the following email.

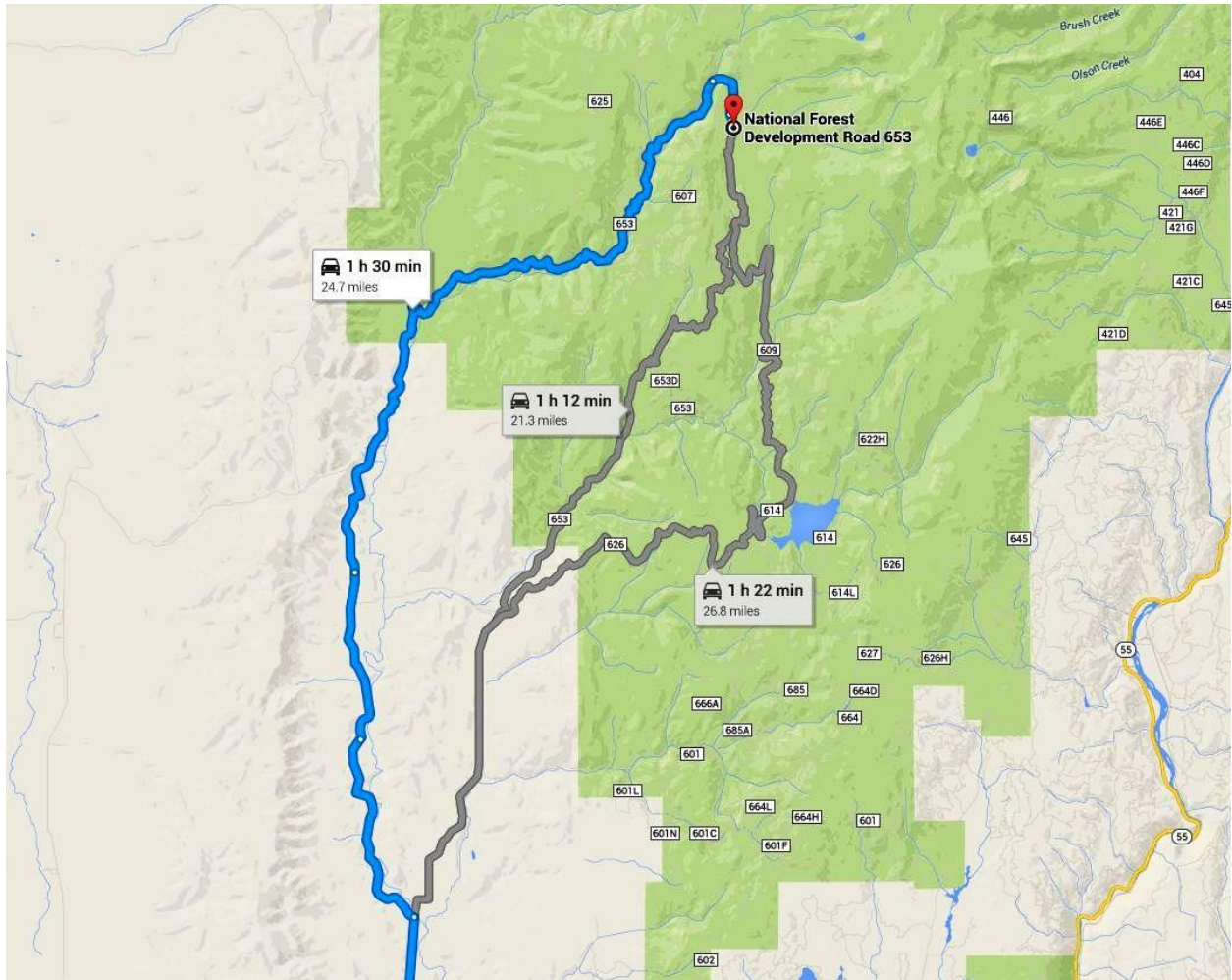
From: **Rob Adams**

Date: Fri, Oct 24, 2014 at 8:53 AM

Subject: Saturday - if your coming sign up

To: Nancy Smith; Shannon Schantz

I am planning a DAY ride out of the Wilson Corral Trail head. I understand they improved the access road last fall, I guess we will see. Make sure you bring a warm / Windproof jacket, they are talking 60 and breeze in the mountains but it could be colder.



There are three routes to Wilson Corral trail head. The longest in driving time is the best driving conditions. FS 618/FS653 (third fork route – highlighted in blue) while in places a narrow mountain road, is generally in good condition and doesn't climb over a mountain. FS653D (second fork route) is listed as the shortest in both distance and time is a route suitable for 4-wheelers and adventure bikes, but not for trucks and trailer. FS626/FS614/FS609 (sage hen route) is likely to have traffic and the FS609 section is also not great road. Why am I pointing this out you ask? It is that when I got to the trail head at 10:15 I was the only one there. At 11:30 when I finally stepped into my saddle, I was still the only one there.

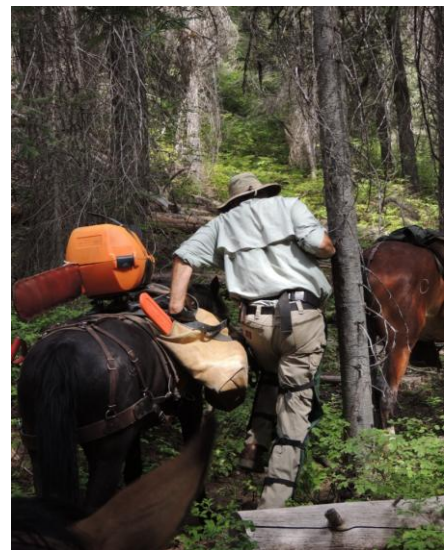
A call to Nancy when I got home explained why. Shannon was not sure of the route and in the dark and early morning fog, chose the Second fork route and they had a white knuckled adventure driving over the mountain. They eventually got to Ramage meadows, didn't find me and drove north on FS653. The turn into Wilson Corral from that direction is not possible so they continued down that road and headed back to Emmett. I have asked them to write up their adventure.



So at around 11:30, Payette, Moosely and I started up the trail. It was mid 50's I would guess and damp from the rain the night before with some fog along the creek. The first 1/3 of a mile of this trail is very challenging. Depending on creek water levels and the state of some boggy places, it can be out right dangerous. This ride qualified as the latter. The trail section that crosses a spring before entering a boggy meadow a hundred yards from the trail head has collapsed into the creek, the meadow due to the recent rains was very wet and soft and where the trail enters the creek for a couple hundred feet was difficult and dangerous due to water levels. This section of trail needs to be re-routed as it is dangerous for stock and hikers. I put all this into a trail project report that was sent to the Emmett

ranger district. Hopefully they will schedule a re-route in their 2015 trail maintenance Plan.

It was not far down the trail that we ran into our first of twelve downed trees blocking the trail. They were removed as well as a number of smaller trees and limbs. Most of this work was in the lower 1/3 of the trail. Otherwise the trail was in very good condition, although the tread was damp and in places slippery so it was nice riding an experience trail horse like Payette. I noticed boot tracks on the trail and knew they had to be from this morning as the rain had washed out all other sign of tracks. I was wearing my bright yellow-green day-glow jacket and Moosely had the bright orange saw case so I hoped we would not be mistaken for deer or elk. I saw four deer on the ride, but not on the trail but on FS653Q a logging road



that I rode back to the trail head on instead of riding the lower section of trail again. I stopped once I reached the upper meadow on Wilson Peak as it was very windy. The ride up the trail and then down including the logging road took about three hours and made for a

very nice day in the mountains. The only thing that would have made it better would have been sharing it with others.

Note: I was told last year by the Emmett range district that they had done some road work on the Wilson Corral trail head. It is true; they put a number of loads of rock on the section of road that drops into the trail head parking area, so you no longer have to drive through large erosion ruts. A major improvement. You still don't want to meet someone on the 1/2 mile road in or out of the trail head with your trailer as there is no room to pass.

