



Ryan Williams

SINGLE-TRACK SOLUTION

Western States Get New Single-Track Trails After Years Of Delay

By Jim Witters

The trails being built in Arizona's Kelly Canyon, just south of Flagstaff, are the first new single-track trails in the state since 2005, according to Jeff Prince, off-highway-vehicle program coordinator for the state parks department.

In neighboring Colorado, the Summit County Off Road Riders are working on a 21-mile single-track system on Tenderfoot Mountain under the authority of the U.S. Forest Service.

In Washington State, 10 miles of new single track will be part of nearly 60 miles of off-highway vehicle trails in the Yacolt Burn State Forest.

The construction signals victories for the single-track enthusiasts in those areas, who had been lamenting trails closures year after year.

Mike Ames, president of the Jones Creek Trail Riders Association in southwest Washington, says members of his club and the Pistons Wild Motorsports club spent seven years seeking permission to begin work.

"This will be the first legal single track in southwest Washington in decades," Ames says.

Barrett Brown, a member of the Oregon Motorcycle Riders Association and

developer of the ST240 single-track trail-cutting machine, is encouraged by all the new projects.

"What has gotten things going is the awakening of the motorcycle enthusiasts to what has been happening to their trails," Brown says. "They looked up one day and realized that this is not our sport any more."

Two-Track Problems

Meredith C. "Cam" Lockwood, executive officer of the U.S. Forest Service's Trails Unlimited program, says the National Environmental Policy Act curtailed the creation of new single-track trails on federal lands.

"But it's not all about the agencies' desire to reduce single track," he says. "It's about sustainability, maintainability



and manageability. The agencies can't take care of what they have, and [some of] the OHV public still continue to make themselves look bad in the way they conduct themselves while recreating on public land."

In addition, Lockwood says, "Much of the original single track has been expanded because of the explosion of all-terrain vehicles and utility-task vehicles."

"Every year, on National Trails Day, we kept showing up. Normally, all the work on those days is on non-motorized trails. But, finally, last year, we got them to do work on a motorized trail, and 312 people showed up."

— Warren Williams, president of the Coconino Trail Riders



COCONINO TRAIL RIDERS ▶ The two-wheel-drive Rokon has proven to be a useful tool for maintaining single-track trail.

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The Forest Service and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management favored wider trails, reasoning that they “could be enjoyed by everybody,” including ATVs and side by sides, Brown says.

The result: “Linear motocross tracks that are only fun if you ride fast,” according to Brown. “Single-track is more fun per mile.”

The gradual shift to wider tracks led to problems.

“There were more crashes, more head-ons and more injuries,” Brown says. “The answer is more trail and a proper inventory of trails that meets the needs of the community.”

New Direction

Brown and other off-highway motorcycle riders believe part of the solution is to expand the number of single-track trails and stop “blowing out all the trails into avenues.”

Prince says another piece of the puzzle is ongoing cooperation among all types of trail users.

“We have great cooperation among the various trail users around Flagstaff, including hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders and the off-highway motorcyclists,” Prince says. “One trail-building day drew about 300 volunteers.”



Warren Williams, president of the Coconino Trail Riders, is proud of his club’s volunteer efforts and is convinced that the Kelly Canyon single-track trail is a result.

“Every year, on National Trails Day, we kept showing up,” he says. “Normally, all the work on those days is on non-motorized trails. But, finally, last year, we

got them to do work on a motorized trail, and 312 people showed up.”

The turnout this year fell to 97, he says, but the volunteers demonstrated to officials that the demand exists for more motorized trails and, specifically, more single-track.

In recognition of that need, the Arizona Parks Department has awarded



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a \$300,000 grant for the Kelly Canyon project and another \$300,000 for a second single-track project “down the mountain,” Prince says.

The department also bought two Rokon Trail-Breakers to haul equipment to the work sites, and Prince budgeted about \$100,000 of parks department funding for the purchase of an ST240 trail-cutting machine that he hopes to buy in 2015.

The Kelly Canyon project consists of 90 miles of trails in three loops, with some portions shared with double-track vehicles, Williams says.

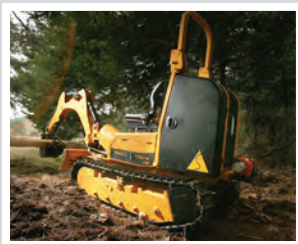
In Washington, Ames and his group are building trails with a Morrison Trailblazer bought several years ago at a government-surplus sale.

The Yacolt Burn State Forest project includes 10 miles of single-track trail, 18 miles of double-track trail for ATVs and 30.5 miles of four-wheel-drive trail.

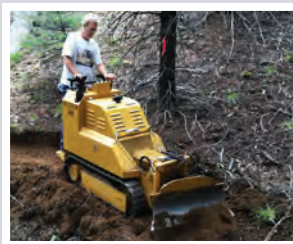
The Summit County Off Road Riders’

website says they hope the new trails in the White River National Forest will be open in 2016.

TRAIL-BUILDERS TOOLBOX ▶ Here are some examples of the modern trail-building equipment in use.



SINGLE TRACK ST240
Manufacturer: Single Track LLC, North Plains, Ore.
Price: \$96,500
Motivation: Three-cylinder Kubota turbo-diesel
Features: 24-inch to 36-inch track width; radio control
Website:
www.singletracktools.com



SUTTER 300 MINI DOZER
Manufacturer: Sutter Equipment Co., Inc., Mound House, Nev.
Price: \$63,800
Motivation: Four-cylinder Kubota V1505 turbo-diesel
Features: Six-way blade way with lift and tilt float; 29.5-inch width
Website:
www.sutterequipment.com



SWECO 480 TRAIL DOZER
Manufacturer: Sweco Products, Sutter, Calif.
Price: \$60,000 to \$65,000
Motivation: 91-horsepower four-cylinder Caterpillar turbocharged diesel engine
Features: 48-inch, six-way blade with float; optional 109-hp engine
Website:
www.swecoproducts.com



ROKON TRAIL-BREAKER
Manufacturer: Rokon International, Rochester, N.H.
Price: \$7,350
Motivation: 208cc Kohler, single cylinder, four stroke, fan cooled
Features: Dual-wheel drive; 15-inch ground clearance; lightweight (218 lbs.); wide tractor-type tires
Website: www.rokon.com