



For additional information regarding public use of MERA or for outdoor gear and supplies please scan the QR code below.

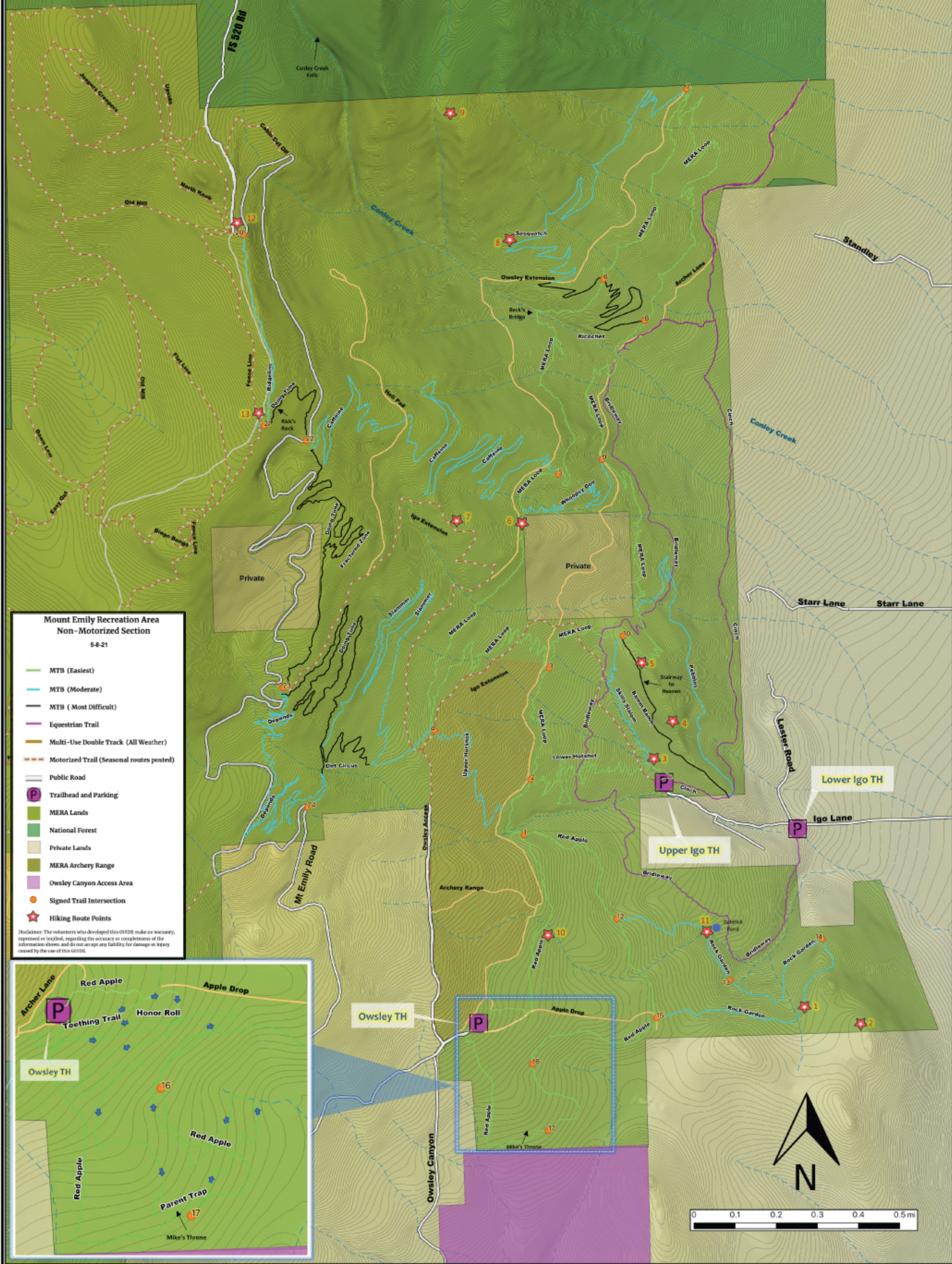
Purpose
The purpose of this Mountain Biking, Hiking and Trail Running Guide is to provide you with information to ensure you have a wonderful experience at MERA. Included here is important information about the trailheads, trails and related infrastructure, as well as non-motorized trail conditions, attributes and restrictions. Use this Guide to determine which trail or trails best suit your skill level, the amount of time you have available, and the overall experience you seek. The map included in this Guide includes the east half of MERA, which is designated primarily for non-motorized recreation use. This Guide includes specific information that relates to non-motorized uses such as Mountain Biking, Hiking, Trail Running and Equestrian use at MERA.

History
Mount Emily Recreation Area (MERA) is located in Union County, Oregon and was acquired by Union County in 2008. A coalition of local motorized and non-motorized users took the lead role in securing a county-wide ballot measure and vote in favor of Union County acquiring this great playground. This same coalition worked tirelessly with local and state government to put together a funding package that allowed Union County to acquire the MERA at no direct cost to county residents. The vast majority of funding for the acquisition of the 3,700-acre MERA was provided by Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department, ATV Grant Program; funds were derived from ATV user permit sales and a percentage of gasoline tax money. Additional grant funding was also provided by the Blue Mountain Habitat Restoration program.

We hope you have a wonderful visit!

Welcome!

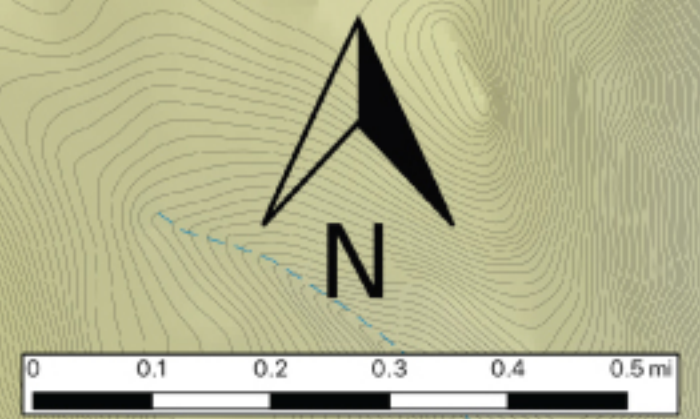
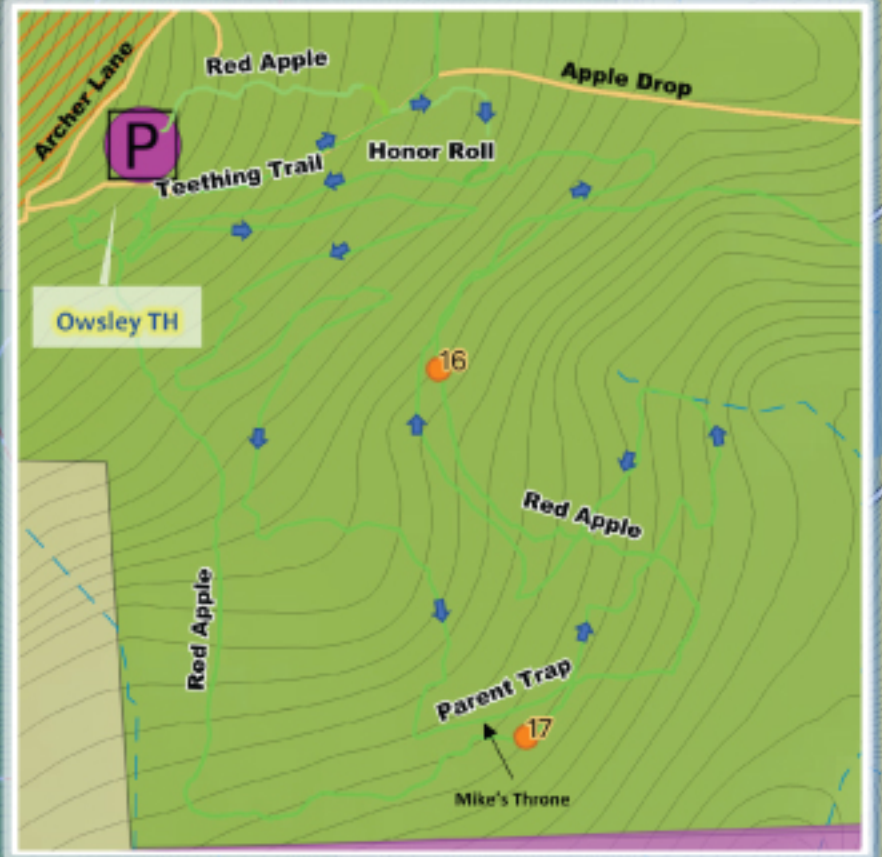
Mt. Emily Recreation Area Bike, Hike, Run! Guide



**Mount Emily Recreation Area
Non-Motorized Section
5-8-21**

- MTB (Easiest)
- MTB (Moderate)
- MTB (Most Difficult)
- Equestrian Trail
- Multi-Use Double Track (All Weather)
- Motorized Trail (Seasonal routes posted)
- Public Road
- Trailhead and Parking
- MERA Lands
- National Forest
- Private Lands
- MERA Archery Range
- Owsley Canyon Access Area
- Signed Trail Intersection
- Hiking Route Points

Disclaimer: The volunteers who developed this GUIDE make no warranty, expressed or implied, regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information shown and do not accept any liability for damage or injury caused by the use of this GUIDE.



Trailheads

Trail Descriptions

All popular MERA Trails, and all double track roads/wet weather routes, have a carsonite post at the start of the trail or road and at all main intersections. Trail name, number, restrictions on use, and technical difficulty are typically shown. On some posts, Caution High Speed Mtn Bikes is also shown.

Mountain Biking Trails:
Only the most popular mountain biking trails are listed on the reverse and are shown on the Trails MAP. As a courtesy, and as a safety concern, Mountain Biking is not recommended on Preferred Equestrian Trails.

Trail Running
All trails on reverse are open to Trail Running. However, only the most popular trails used by runners are highlighted. Recommended loop options are provided on the reverse side. Running on trails posted as "High-Speed Downhill Mountain Biking Trails" in the direction opposite of travel presents a safety risk to runners and bikers, and is not recommended.

Hiking
MERA provides unlimited hiking opportunities. All trails are open to hiking, and cross-country hiking is allowed. Hiking Routes include only GPS coordinates for the start and end of the Route—backcountry route finding skills are required! Hiking on trails posted as "High Speed Downhill Mountain Biking Trails" in the direction opposite of travel presents a safety risk to hikers and bikers and is not recommended.

Preferred Equestrian Trails
Preferred Equestrian Trails shown are designed to ensure a quality experience for riders. These trails are recommended to reduce safety risks to equestrians, and to minimize damage to other trails. Equestrian travel on High Speed Mountain Biking Trails presents a safety risk to equestrians and bikers and is not recommended.

To aid in route finding and safe travel, most carsonite posts at main intersections or junctions also have a unique number shown, Junction 1..24, which correspond to the number shown on the MERA MAP included with this Guide.

Upper Igo Lane Trailhead
Upper Igo Trailhead is a secondary TH. There is access to all MERA non-motorized trails, and seasonal access for most Oregon State Parks regulated Class I, III and IV ATVs (with restrictions notwithstanding). There is very limited parking for autos—no trailers of any kind are allowed. There are no restrooms.
GPS: N45 23 33.87, W118 05 06.92, elevation 3,168 ft.

Lower Igo Trailhead
Lower Igo Trailhead is a secondary TH. It provides access to all MERA non-motorized trails. The trailhead includes parking for autos and horse trailers. There are no restrooms.
GPS: N45 23 27.85, W118 04 43.43 elevation 2969 ft.

Owsley Canyon Trailhead
Owsley Canyon Trailhead (TH) is the primary non-motorized access point to MERA. The TH provides access to all MERA non-motorized trails. There are two vault-toilet restrooms, kiosks, picnic tables, and parking for all non-motorized users, including horse trailers.
GPS: N45 23 04.32, W118 05 40.85, elevation 3,464 ft.

Public Access
Public access to MERA is allowed at three trailheads for non-motorized users. Parking is limited at trailheads, so please park responsibly. There is no running water, garbage service, or dog poop bags at any trailhead, so plan accordingly. Please pack out your garbage and dog poop; there is no overnight camping allowed at MERA—except at the MERA Fox Hill Trailhead.

Hiking Routes: All Out and Back Routes

Trailhead notes only—no trails. Start and End Points for each Route is shown by a number with a  on the MAP. Numbers used below identify each hiking route.

1, 2 Wright Overlook: Start: GPS N45 23 04.29 W118 04 09.19, elevation 3,265 ft. Viewpoint: GPS N45 23 03.24 W118 04 34.17, elevation 3,286 ft. Slightly strenuous Route that offers great views of the Grande Ronde Valley and Eagle Cap Wilderness.

3, 4, 5 Cliffs of IGO: Start: GPS N45 23 06.46 W118 05 09.29 elevation 3,228 ft. Viewpoint 1: N45 23 03.08 W118 05 04.46, Viewpoint 2: N45 23 07.13 W118 05 04.42, elevation 3,442 ft. A moderately strenuous climb through open Ponderosa Pine, and unique rock outcrops. Spectacular views of the Grande Ronde Valley, Eagle Cap Wilderness, and the northern portion of the Elkhorn Mtns.

6, 7 Blackberry: Start: N45 24 03.21 W118 05 32.03 elevation 3,851 ft. Viewpoint: N45 24 06.14 W118 05 40.85, elevation 4,341 ft. A moderately strenuous hike up the ridge through open Ponderosa Pine and Douglas Fir with an abundance of flowers and shrubs along the way.

8, 9 Dava Patrol: Start: GPS N45 24 00.95 W118 05 31.47 elevation 4,027 ft. Viewpoint: N45 24 52.48 W118 05 38.99, elevation 4,784 ft. A strenuous hike, but from the time you leave Sasquatch trail and begin the "big ascent" the views are spectacular.

10, 11 Riparian: Start: GPS 45 23 10.85, elevation 3,426 ft. End at Gold Fish Pond: 45 23 16.73, elevation 3,142 ft. A great hike along the South Fork of Conley Creek for the family, which terminates at Gold Fish Pond.

12, 13 Grande View to La Grande View: Start at Grande View, GPS N45 24 42.80, W118 06 15.64, elevation 5,224. End at La Grande View, GPS N45 24 18.95, W118 06 15.64, elevation 5,039 ft.

Technical Rating

Trail length and elevation gain or loss (ascend/descend), is the total for the loop, or only for the direction of travel shown (one-loop trails) and, unless stated otherwise, assumes starting at the Overly Canyon TH. All trails allow multi-directional travel, unless stated otherwise.

Green: Trails are the least technical and typically have low climbing and descending gradients, bypasses for technical trail features, such as rock step-ups or drops, or jumps with gaps (dusthoes), minimal, loose medium to large size rocks, and few roots.

Blue: Trails are moderately technical to technical, have short, steep climbing and descending gradients, bypasses are provided for technical trail features that cannot be easily rolled, technical trail features such as jumps, logs, drops and step-ups are the primary trail route with bypasses provided parallel with the main trail.

Black: Trails are very technical, have steep descents and corners, and short, steep climbs, exposure, loose and embedded rock; most technical trail features that cannot be rolled have bypasses.

Red: Trails are double black diamond, very to extremely technical—the price of failure is high! There are no Red Trails on MERA that have been officially adopted by Union County.

Physical or Strenuous Rating:

Slightly: Short trails, with well sculpted switchbacks rather than climbing turns, which require less physical conditioning and are the least strenuous.

Moderate: Long trails or loops with at least one extended climb, some tight climbing turns rather than switchbacks, which require better technical skills and fitness.

Strenuous: Long or short trails or loops with sustained or frequent steep to very steep climbing sections, frequent tight climbing turns rather than switchbacks, occasional step-ups, which may be natural or

Trail Name(s)	Technical Difficulty and Physical Rating(s)	Distance (mi)	Direction of Travel(s)	Trail Attributes—What to Expect?
Mountain Biking Trails: Most Popular Only. All Start and End at Overly Canyon TH, Unless Stated Otherwise.				
Trail Loop	green/slightly strenuous	0.2 25/25	went to east	MERA's best under-bike and custom bike trail, moderately wide singletrack with a loop back to start on double track
Parent Trap Trail, Loop	green/moderately strenuous	2.0 222/222	counterclockwise, but is great in either direction	Loop trail starts and ends at the Overly Canyon TH, moderately wide singletrack, and is an easy climb back to the start. Great for families. Suitable for mountain bikes, BMX bikes, and leaving the kids. Includes rollers, banked corners, rollable jumps and logs, and a loose surface. Stop at "Mikes" house (a rock bench) and take in the view of the southern portion of the Grande Ronde Valley
Honor Roll Trail, Loop	green/slightly strenuous	0.3 66/70	went to east, descending	Short pump section/rollers, jumps, logs. Slightly fast downhill directional trail, moderately wide singletrack with a nice gradient and width. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Red Apple Trail, Loop	blue/moderately strenuous	2.4 257/251	clockwise but fun in either direction	A popular loop with many side trails! Narrow, primitive singletrack, moderately fast, some embedded and trail-side rock and erosion. Dog friendly with water year-round at South Fork Conley Creek (OreId).
Rock Garden Trail, Loop	blue/strenuous	2.0 564/553	great in either direction	1 technical and primitive trails—abundant embedded rocks to large sized subangular rock. Ride this trail to practice your rock riding skills—before you head to MESA, UT.
MERA Loop Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	6.2 1028/934	clockwise but loads of fun in either direction	Singletrack, with short steep ascents and descents, banked corners, natural and man-made technical trail features. Great access to MERA's best, short double trail—Skills Station, Whoopee Doo and Rocolet Trails. Dog water year-round north of Conley Creek. Back's bridge over Conley Creek is a work of art, thanks Brock Thomson, ISA Troop 514
Whoopee Doo Trail	blue/slightly strenuous	0.7 85/124	descend west to east	Downcast, high speed, flowy, downhill trail, with a huge goggle factor! <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Sasquatch Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	1.6 272/258	North to south, from the MERA Loop, at the Sasquatch feeding area	A great climbing trail—and on the backside—a fast downhill trail, which continues, and gets more technical and faster, after you cross Road 609, which is the start of Rocolet Trail
Rocolet Trail	black/slightly strenuous	1.1 111/106	descend west to east—up to bottom	High speed, flowy, downhill, endurance type of trail, with a huge goggle factor. Good focus at the two steep, gully drops, large rock boulders near the bottom (walk below you have a go at them) Check your speed at the bottom at the intersection with MERA Loop Trail. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Hix Shot Trail, Lower	green/moderately strenuous	1.1 302/311	great in either direction	A great climbing trail, built to sustainable standards, flowy nicely rounded and banked climbing turns
Hix Shot Trail, Upper	blue/strenuous	0.6 20/241	north to south, descending	A very popular, flowy and fast downhill trail. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Stammer Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	2.0 321/299	great in either direction	One of MERA's best, playful rolling contour—climbing or descending trails. Provides MERA's only singletrack access to other higher elevation trails. Dirt Clinic, Dropouts, Doing Time and Caffeine
Out Cross Trails, Lower and Upper Sections	black/slightly strenuous	0.4 26'	went to east—upright pugle or equestrian use allowed	MERA's only Tirolite trail. Gap jumps/dusthoes and multiple, large wooden ladder type of rumps and drop-in features. Walk-out before you ride it! <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Red Loop Trail	black/slightly strenuous	0.7	descend from north to south	Dog jumps and tabletops. Huge grin factor. Control your speed at the bottom at the intersection with Caffeine Trail. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Red-On Trail	blue/slightly strenuous	0.5 45/100	great in either direction	A narrow rolling contour trail connecting Caffeine Trail and Doing Time Trail, mid-slope
Depends Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	2.2 418/299	great in either direction	A MERA favorite whether ridden uphill or downhill. Provides best singletrack trail access to Doing Time Trail, and Caffeine Trail
Pebbles Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	1.0 444/207	great in either direction	Great rolling contour singletrack, which provides a fast and flowy descent (north to south), or a moderately strenuous, rolling climb in the opposite direction. Huge track sized boulders below the Cliffs of Igo. "Pebbles Playground," with multiple routes and some technical trail features added
BAM BAM Trail	black/slightly strenuous	0.5 6/48	north to south—descending only	MERA's fun and more technical double trail. Steep singletrack with a large rock slab step-up and a large rock slab drop-in at the start. "Stairway to Heaven." MERA's fine snow and mud—fine trail to ride in the spring and last one to ride in the fall. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Skills Station Trail	blue/slightly strenuous	0.5 52/50	north to south—descending only	MERA's best banked corners, logs, jumps, tabletops, and rollers. Cleared fall zones below jumps—just in case you know someone who can't! Huge grin factor. Control your speed at the bottom intersection with Lower Honker Trail. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Doing Time Trail	black/strenuous	3.3 129/100	descend from north to south—up to bottom!	MERA's most diverse, and fast end-to-type of trail with fantastic views of Grande Ronde Valley, Eagle Cap Wilderness and Elkhorn Mountains. Start at the Grande View Overlook (GPS N45 24 42.80, W118 06 15.64, elevation 5,224) at Ridgepole Trail/Doing Time Trail! Trail becomes progressively more technical where Ridgepole Trail (closed with mtns) and Doing Time Trail part ways (stay left), and you drop in at Red's Back—hang on! <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Fractured Zone Trail	black/moderately strenuous	0.6 63/84	descend, west to east	A technical end-to-type trail, with steep drops—a rough roller coaster ride, that loops back into Doing Time Trail. Abundant, large, fractured, embedded and loose rock—hence the name "Fractured Zone." <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
Caffeine Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	3.3 571/663	went to east top to bottom (from Road 207)	MERA's signature, high speed, flowy downhill, end-to-type mountain bike trail. Fantastic views of Grande Ronde Valley, Eagle Cap Wilderness and Elkhorn Mountains. <i>High speed mountain bike!</i>
TRAIL RUNNING TRAILS: Most Popular Only. All Start and End at Overly Canyon TH.				
Red Apple Trail, Loop	blue/moderately strenuous	2.4 257/251	great loop in either direction	Open Ponderosa Pine forest with diverse flora and fauna. Dog water year-round at the South Fork Conley Creek
MERA Loop, Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	6.2 1028/934	great loop in either direction	Dog friendly with water year-round in drainages north of Conley Creek. Add in Upper Hotshot for a steep climb and loop back to the MERA Loop. Many side trails can be added to increase or decrease mileage.
Parent Trap Trail, Loop	green/moderately strenuous	2.0 222/222	counterclockwise, but is great in either direction	Popular running loop for high school and college cross country teams. Loop trail starts and ends at the Overly Canyon TH, so is great for families. Dog water at the stainless steel tank GPS N45 23 03 51 W118 05 25 80
Pebbles Trail	blue/moderately strenuous	3.3 508/444	great in either direction	From the Upper Igo TH, a net climb up to the MERA Loop Trail. Huge track sized boulders, "Pebbles Playground." Provides access to the MERA Loop Trail and others.
BIKING TRAILS: Most Popular Only. All start and end at Overly Canyon TH.				
Red Apple Trail, Loop	blue/moderately strenuous	2.4 257/251	equally great clockwise or counter clockwise	A popular one and one-half hour loop, with good signage for alternate short add-on loops. Open forest canopy with occasional views of the Grande Ronde Valley. Dog friendly with water year-round at South Fork Conley Creek
Rock Garden Trail, Loop	blue/strenuous	2	either direction—see Route info below	A side loop through open canopy Ponderosa Pine, with lots of embedded rocks and a great view of the Grande Ronde Valley.
MERA Loop	see description, above			
Pebbles Trail	see description, above			
PREPARED EQUESTRIAN TRAILS: General Description only—go to https://www.meetmera.org/				
Loop includes: Bridleway, Critter, Long Cut, and Cinch Trails				Preferred Equestrian Trails are a combination of purpose-built singletrack trails constructed by BMSTC members. From Overly Canyon TH, ride Red Apple Loop Trail, in either direction, until you come to double-track 605, go north about 1/2 mile to the junction with Bridleway Trail, and go left or north. Access from Lower Igo TH: Take Bridleway Trail, past the Gold Fish Pond and through Gateway. At the Bridleway and Cinch Trail Junction go left up Bridleway Trail. Cinch Trail goes right—this is your return portion of the loop. At Long Cut Trail go right descend to Cinch Trail and go right and back to the Lower Igo TH. Note: Riding from Lower Igo TH to the Upper Igo TH on Igo Lane is very dangerous due to vehicle traffic and poor visibility, and is not recommended.



Additional Information

- Info Regarding Public Use of MERA:**
- Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, Travel Oregon: www.visitoregon.com
 - Union County MERA Webpage, Access, Restrictions, Camping, and More: <https://www.meetmera.org/black-q7v5>
 - Union County Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.unioncountyoregon.org/>
 - Blue Mountains Singletrack Trails Club—Mountain Biking Northeast Oregon: bluemountainbikers.org
 - TrailForka (trail maps): <https://www.trailforka.com/>
 - Mountain Biker Project MEB (trail maps): <https://www.mtb.com/>

For Outdoor Gear and Supplies:

- Eastern Oregon University Outdoor Program—Program Details and Rental of Outdoor Gear: www.eou.edu/outdoor
- Eastern Wheel Works, Bicycles, Custom Wheels and Bike Repairs: <http://www.easternwheelworks.com>
- Blue Mtn Outfitters—Backpacking, Hiking and Climbing gear: <http://bluemtnoutfitters.com/>
- The Mountain Works: Bicycles and Repairs, Skiing and Rock Climbing



Trail Use and Etiquette

Every MERA visitor desires a great experience. Please help each visitor achieve that goal! When you encounter other trail users, please respect their personal space, say hello, and be polite.

Trail Damage: Please do not use singletrack trails if your bicycle tires, or horse or mule hoofs are causing indentations in the soils on the trails, which are 1 inch or deeper. If soils are soft or wet, please respect the time and money that has gone into the construction of these trails—and use the "wet weather routes" shown on the Map at the back of this Guide.

Equestrians: please ride inside of bermed or banked corners, and use bypasses provided for equestrian trails and jumps and wooden structures. These trail features were not built to support the force imparted by horse's hooves, and equestrian use of these features will cause damage that must be repaired.

Proper Yielding:

- Mountain bikers must control downhill speed, and yield to runners, hikers, and equestrians.
- Runners and hikers should yield to equestrians.
- When yielding to equestrians, give them a wide breadth, talk to the rider in a relaxed voice and ask if they prefer you move off the trail—to the uphill or downhill side? A spooked horse or mule is very dangerous to you and the rider, so take all reasonable precautions.
- Uphill traffic has the right of way, regardless of user group, so yield accordingly.
- Motorized vehicles please yield to all other trail users.

Dogs:

- Should be controlled at all times; whether it is enforced by a leash or by voice, and must not jump on other trail users or harass people, dogs or livestock.
- Dog poop at Trailheads should be picked up, bagged and properly disposed (garbage service is not provided). Dog poop on trails should be picked up bagged and packed out (preferred), or scattered at least 20 feet from a trail.

Waste:

- Human poop should be deposited at least 20 feet from a trail, and buried at least 6 inches deep. Do not leave toilet paper or waste exposed. Think like a cat!
- Horse poop (manure, donkey, llama too):
 - In parking lots, please do not intentionally discard horse poop in parking lots.
 - On trails, please scrape horse poop off of trails.



Safety Tips

Safety during your visit to MERA—begins with you. Conditions at MERA change frequently due to trail damage from storms or users, or even day to day wear and tear.

Carry a fully charged cell phone. Always let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to return. Carry a small pack with minimum survival gear, water, food, first aid, etc.

Mountain bikers, trail runners and equestrians are at a very high risk of serious injury or death on MERA Trails. Know your limits, inspect and maintain your equipment, and do not attempt to ride or run over technical trail features (trail structures built from wood, rocks or soil) without walking those features first. Do not travel up trails noted as "caution high speed downhill mountain bikers."

Firearms and bowhunting is allowed on MERA in accordance with state law. Wear bright colors during fall or spring hunting seasons.

For medical emergencies, call 911. If possible, note your proximity to a trailhead, a specific trail junction sign, the trail you are on or the double track road you are near. Contact Union County Sheriff's Office at 541.963.1117 for all other emergencies.

MERA Rules

For a detailed listing of non-motorized and motorized rules at the MERA, go to <https://www.meetmera.org/>

- No target shooting with firearms, or use of point ball guns.
 - Pack it in pack it out, no garbage service.
 - Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated routes.
 - Dogs must be controlled at all times.
 - Respect private property.
 - Camping is allowed at Fox Hill Campground ONLY, limits on stay are enforced.
 - Fires are allowed only in designated fire rings at Fox Hill Staging Area and Campground ONLY. Oregon State Dept. of Forestry restrictions are enforced.
 - Hunting is allowed, which is governed by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife rules.
 - No fireworks setting.
 - Close gates even if livestock grazing is not underway.
- If you witness a violation of these rules or suspicious behavior, please call the Union County Sheriff's Office at 541.963.1117, or Union County Parks Coordinator at 541.963.1215.



Thank You!

This MERA GUIDE was prepared with input from: Sean Chambers, Ian Caldwell, Steve Clements, Megan Cook, Kathy Pfister-Minsinger, Kevin and Ann March, Noel March, Don Lawry, Forrest Warren, Debby Love, Scott Wilson, Eric Valentine, Kristy Moore, Kyle Pfaffenbach, Cameron Livermore, Dave Earman, Lance Colburn, Savannah Moore-Hewans, Wade Wright, Tyler Brooks, Susan Merrill, Michael Sell, and Sean Lerner. Bart Barlow Project Manager. Layout and Design by Corrina Stadler

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