

Owl Creek Trail Assessment



Assessment Development

- Moderate to severe erosion since trail development .
- Sediment transport into the streams and user safety is highlighted concern.
- Financed - Watershed Restoration funding.
- Hydra, Trail Dynamics, Kay-Linn Enterprises assessment of 25 miles of Owl Creek trail system.
- Assessment was conducted in November.

Trail Assessment Criteria

- Physical Setting-Modern principles of physical trail sustainability, which consist of trail grade, soils, water management.
- Social Setting- Potential for safety-related concerns, user conflicts, maps, signage, etc.
- Managerial Setting- past and potential future of the Bankhead National Forest management through LRMP, maintenance protocol and effectiveness. Anticipated capacity.

Trail Assessment Activities

- Contractor held a preliminary meeting to discuss the overall vision of the trail system.
- Held a weekend indoor/outdoor sustainable trail development seminar.
- Inventoried conditions along the entire length Owl Creek Trail system which included roads .
- Developed a management plan
- Conceptual layouts and designs.



Assessment Findings

- Trails were designed and constructed using regional guide lines.
- Grades often exceed 10%-20% in several areas .
- Trail lacks rolling contour characteristic.
- Significant amount of trail below outcropping elevation.
- Best soils top of ridges.

Findings continued...

- Majority of the trails have become deeply incised carrying water to the bottom of drainages.
- Major sedimentation and erosion problems have also been identified where drainages are crossed. Mainly designated creek crossing.
- Less than 7% of mitigation by FS and volunteers still work.
- Trails below the outcrop elevation has significant erosion and soil deposition hydrology and friable soils

Gradient 20% incised 5' deep



15% gradient down to bedrock



Outcropping



Turf Stone-Key Mill



