



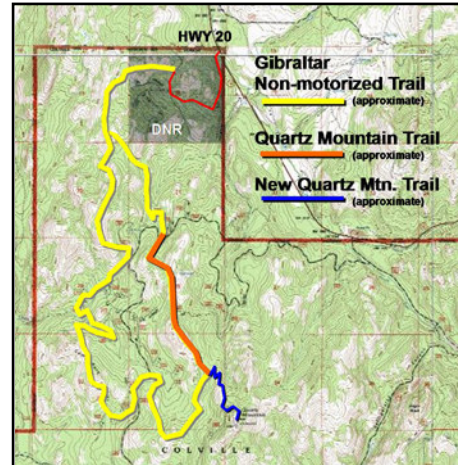
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GIBRALTAR NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL - SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Features:

- Close to Republic
- Diverse terrain
- Interesting natural features
- Wide range of plants and trees
- Expansive views
- Easy to moderate trail
- Trailhead accessible by car or truck



Gibraltar non-motorized trail is a moderate 12 mile loop trail with a modest elevation rise of approximately 500 feet. This proposed trail loop overlaps approximately two miles of the historic Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout trail included in Phase II of this project. The trail is accessed off State Highway 20 approximately five miles from the town of Republic, WA. There are three potential points of entry and parking areas where proposed trail intersects and crosses FR 2053 (T 36N, R 31 E, secs. 26 & 33) and Department of Natural Resources land (sec 16). DNR access appears to be the least workable of these options. The entire trail is on Colville National Forest land except for a potential DNR trailhead. The Gibraltar non-motorized trail offers panoramic views of the Okanogan Highlands to the west; the Kettle River Range and the Selkirk mountains to the east; the San Poil river valley to the south; and the Canadian Rockies to the north. The Gibraltar Mountain area's rocky outcroppings and old growth forest interspersed with meadows and wetlands offers a recreation experience unique to northeast Washington. Flora varies from native grasses to bitterroot and sagebrush. The area provides excellent habitat for mule deer, moose, elk and hundreds of bird species.

Benefits:

- Provides opportunity for physical activity
- Increases non-motorized trail system near Republic
- Wildlife viewing and bird watching
- Picnic and shaded areas
- Future link to Tiger Trail
- Lower elevation permits extended snow-free travel



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The historical Quartz Mountain Fire Lookout will be accessed by a spur off the Gibraltar non-motorized trail. The tread for a spur trail already exists. While this lookout was destroyed by arson fire a shelter could be rebuilt at this same location.



Quartz Mountain Lookout was burnt down by vandals in October 1997.

WORK PERFORMED WITH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Diverse groups will collaborate to develop, construct and maintain the Gibraltar non-motorized trail, including:

- Forest Service
- Local high school students
- Job Corps
- Ferry County Trails Association
- Washington Trails Association
- Conservation Northwest
- Opportunities for other partners



 WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION

DESIGN – DEVELOP - CONSTRUCT

The Gibraltar non-motorized trail can be constructed in two phases.

- Phase I will be the construction of the 6 mile Gibraltar to Camel Back section. Phase I construction will begin when the Forest Service completes NEPA and design and development steps. A spring start, before fire season is best.
- Phase II will complete the remaining 6 mile section from Camel Back to Quartz Mountain and Quartz to Gibraltar. Fire Lookout spur trail off the Gibraltar non-motorized trail. Phase II could begin at the completion of Phase I or in conjunction depending on resources.
- Both Phase I and Phase II start times are dependant on weather conditions.



FUNDING

The Gibraltar non-motorized trail can be funded through

- Forest Service resources
- Private funding sources such as R.E.I.
- In-kind donations

