

~ FINE PRINT ~

The Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc. (AVCN) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the publication of the *Applegater* newsmagazine, which, we feel, reflects the heart and soul of our community.

Our Mission

The goal of the Applegate Valley Community Newspaper, Inc., is to provide the Applegate watershed with a communication vehicle, the *Applegater*, that will provide educational information, increase community networking, and represent all the area's diverse communities. Through honest, constructive, relevant, and entertaining reports on a wide variety of subjects and viewpoints, including our natural resources, historical and current events, and community news, we can work together to enhance the quality of life we have in the Applegate, and continue to make a difference in our valley.

Acknowledgements

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All articles submitted to the *Applegater* are subject to edit and publication at the newsmagazine's discretion and as space allows. No more than one article per author per issue. When too many articles are submitted to include in any one issue, some articles may be placed on our website or held until the following issue.

Photo Requirements

All photos submitted must be high resolution (300 dpi) or "large format" (e.g., 30" x 40"). If you have questions, email [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org).

Photos submitted for the front-page banner are on a volunteer basis. Credit is given in the issue in which it appears, on our website, and on our Facebook page.

Submissions for the next issue must be received at [gater@applegater.org](mailto:gater@applegater.org) by the deadline (see Editorial Calendar on this page).

Applegater Newsmagazine  
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Ready to recreate

BY CHRISTINA AMMON

With a shoreline surrounded by wilderness, hiking trails, and wildlife, Applegate Lake is the cherished summertime idyll of southern Oregon residents. The most centrally located of the region's three reservoirs (Applegate, Emigrant, and Lost Creek lakes), it draws visitors from all nearby towns—Grants Pass, Medford, Jacksonville, and Ashland—and beyond.

A Greater Applegate (AGA) recently applied for a Recreation Ready grant from Travel Oregon to support repairs and improvements along the lake's difficult-to-access, 18-mile shoreline. The two-phase program was designed to bring in experts for a feasibility study the first year and then provide \$100,000 toward implementing the project in phase two. Although AGA did not receive the Recreation Ready grant, the application garnered a high score in the very competitive grant program and highlighted both the need for and community enthusiasm about a more accessible shoreline.

In recent years, the Forest Service has not had the extra resources to improve the lake's infrastructure. As a result, the

few existing paths to the shoreline are eroding, and facilities are out of date. Much of the lake's edge is steep, rocky, and difficult for even the most able-bodied person to navigate. Often, the boat ramps double dangerously as beaches. Forest Service employee John McKelligott, who has been involved with the lake for decades, pointed out that Hart-Tish Park and other lake access sites were constructed around 1980. "At that time ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] knowledge and focus were not too well understood or wisely funded and implemented," he said.

This grant effort isn't the first time the community has voiced concerns about the lake. In 2019, a group called Friends of Applegate advocated for infrastructure improvements. The group included residents, two Forest Service employees, Bert Etling (former editor of the *Applegater*), and the commissary who managed the lake's campground and store at Hart-Tish Park.

The pandemic interrupted that effort. When no funding manifested and the



Due to lack of funding, many existing accessibility paths are badly eroded—even hazardous.  
Photo: Christina Ammon.

group's leader moved across the country, the effort lost momentum.

The desire "to expand, and to expand and improve access to, the Applegate Valley's outdoor recreational opportunities" was expressed at the 2020/2021 resident listening sessions held throughout the Applegate. This desire is described in the "Steward & Sustain" section of the Applegate Valley Vision, available online at [agreaterapplegate.org](http://agreaterapplegate.org).

This latest effort was sparked after AGA sponsored *In a Landscape: Classical Music in the Wild* last May at the day-use beach area near Hart-Tish. This popular touring series showcases musician Hunter Noack performing on his Steinway in outdoor

See RECREATE, page 18.

A huge THANKS to the generous donors who recently contributed to the Applegater.

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Editorial Calendar

ISSUE DEADLINE

FALL (Sept - Nov) .....August 1  
*Earth - Air*

WINTER (Dec - Feb)....November 1  
*Holiday - Arts*

SPRING (March - May) ... February 1  
*History - Heritage*

SUMMER (June - Aug) ..... May 1  
*Fire - Water*

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