

Exploring the RGS –

There is not much left to see of the old RGS grade but in a few places it is pretty obvious if you know where to look. Take for example the area known as Gallagher on the south side of Lizard Head Pass. It was located between about mile posts 57 and 58 on the RGS and was a very popular spot for photographers. The big reason for its popularity was two very long and high trestles that were on a tight loop – the “Upper Gallagher” and “Lower Gallagher Trestles.” There were perhaps hundreds of action photos taken over the years at this location, many of which are published in books. We think one of the best books showing the Gallagher site is Volume IV of the R.G.S. Story (Sundance Publications) – pages 348 through 398.

In the fall of 2009, several members of the GGHS hiked about 1 ½ miles from Colorado highway 145 to the Gallagher site. Below are pictures from that hike –

This location is down-grade from the Gallagher siding. The walking is pretty easy here.





The approaches to Lower Gallagher Trestle (Bridge 57-B) are apparent here about ¼ mile distant – those trees are 40-50 feet tall. This picture was taken from the grade near where the previous picture was taken looking downhill.



What is left of the Upper Trestle (Bridge 57A) on the uphill side. This shows the remains of two sill beams – that supported two of the 20 trestle bents – resting on stone piers.



Hikers standing on the grade on the approach to the upper end of the Upper Gallagher Trestle.



Location of the Gallagher siding which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile uphill from the Upper Gallagher Trestle.
At one time this siding could hold about a dozen freight cars.



GGHS President Lew Matis and Scamp...