

ENDANGERED TRAILS 2003



A REPORT OF THE WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION

About Washington Trails Association

Washington Trails Association (WTA), founded in 1966, is a non-profit, non-partisan hiking advocacy organization. Co-founded by Ira Spring and Louise Marshall as a response to the lack of a political voice for the hiking community, WTA works tirelessly to protect our trails through maintenance and advocacy. Trails need defenders, and WTA is here to fill that role.

Washington Trails has an ever-growing membership of 5,500 hikers, and more than 1,500 volunteers. Since 1993, we've performed more than 300,000 hours of volunteer trail maintenance on public lands in Washington State, from the Olympic Peninsula to the Okanogan National Forest. That's an in-kind contribution of more than \$3.5 million dollars. We've worked on "frontcountry" trails such as Denny Creek near Snoqualmie Pass, and deep wilderness trails such as White River and Indian Creek in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. WTA continues its commitment week in and week out by running volunteer maintenance parties filled with fun and interesting work and camaraderie with other hikers.

Hand-in-hand with trail maintenance, WTA's advocacy program represents the interests of hikers at every level of government. Every day, Congress and the Forest Service make decisions that affect our hiking opportunities and the wild settings through which they run. We can't let that happen without significant thought and input by hikers. WTA lobbies in Olympia and Washington, DC for trail funding, and works with the Forest Service and other agencies on trail plans and maintenance agendas. WTA sits on the Steering Committees of The Cascades Conservation Partnership and the Wild Washington Campaign, two important local initiatives whose goals include the protection of many miles of hiking trail. That's why the advocacy program exists—to give you a voice. Sign up for action alerts from WTA by joining the Backcountry Response Network at www.wta.org.

Join Us

If you are not a WTA member, now is your chance. We need your help to continue this important work. Even better, your membership gets you 10 issues per year of Washington Trails magazine, which will keep you up-to-date on decisions that affect our trails and how you can get involved.

To join WTA, visit www.wta.org, or see the membership form on the next page of this guide.





If you've hiked in Washington, YOU'VE GAINED from the hard work of Washington Trails Association.

- ◆ **Results You Can See:** More than 1,500 WTA volunteers maintain hundreds of miles of trail each year.
- ◆ **A Great Hiking Magazine:** *Washington Trails* is delivered to your mailbox with features, news and trip reports.
- ◆ **The Voice for Hikers:** WTA works with elected officials and government staff on trail funding, wilderness protection, new trail projects and more.
- ◆ **Up-to-Date Trail Information:** 2,000 trip reports filed online at www.wta.org.

**Join WTA today and help us make hiking trails a
guarantee for miles and miles to come.**

Yes, I want to help protect Washington's Endangered Trails!

Sign me up as a member of Washington Trails Association today.

___ \$35 Individual Membership

___ \$50 Backpacker Membership

___ \$75 Family Explorer Membership

___ \$100 Trekker Membership

___ \$250 Thru-Hiker

___ \$500 Fireside Circle

I have enclosed a check

Please charge my Visa / Mastercard:

Card: _____ Exp _____

Signature: _____

Please make checks payable to Washington Trails and mail to: WTA, 1305 4th Ave #512, Seattle, WA 98101, or join online at www.wta.org. For more information, email info@wta.org.

Please do not share my name with other organizations.

Acknowledgements

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Several volunteers and WTA staff members gave invaluable contributions. Jonathan Guzzo coordinated production of the Guide. Karen Sykes wrote and photographed the Bedal Creek and Kelley Creek hike descriptions. Susan Saul contributed photographs to the Guide and wrote up descriptions for the Boundary Trail, Silver Star, and Klickitat Rail Trail hikes. Lace Thornberg contributed a hike description for the North Snider-Jackson/Rugged Ridge Trail. Thanks to Chase Davis for the thoughtful suggestion and write-up of the Lewis and Clark Trail area. John Woolley suggested and contributed a description for the Gold Creek/East Crossing Trail. Finally thanks to everyone at WTA who helped review the Guide, including Lauren Braden, Lace Thornberg, and Elizabeth Lunney.

TOPO! maps were created using National Geographic TOPO! Washington State Series with 3D Shaded Relief. Support WTA by purchasing TOPO! on our website.

Additional copies of this guide are available online at www.wta.org. Thanks to Adobe for donating Adobe PageMaker and Acrobat Distiller to make that possible.

Introduction

Washington's hiking trails are among the Washington's greatest treasures. They are our access into wild places, and they are in our care. Over 9,000 miles of trails take us to alpine meadows of brilliant wildflowers, breathtaking scenic vistas, old-growth forest, rocky beaches, and high desert. Yet Washington's trails system is encountering unprecedented threats. Washington Trails Association's second annual Endangered Trails Guide offers a comprehensive in-depth analysis of specific issues that impact trails, and what you can do today to help secure their future. The Guide also includes information on safe and low-impact hiking, detailed descriptions of the trails, and how you can take action.

The Endangered Trails Guide 2003 focuses on many threats facing our trails system, and some opportunities to improve trails as well. Here is a sampling of those issues:

Lack of Funding: Our land management agencies simply do not have the funds to maintain the trails that we already have. National programs such as the fee demo program provide some money for maintenance—however, even these limited funds are in danger of being diverted to fight fires. Trails such as Kelley and Lennox Creek suffer from inadequate maintenance funding.

Loss of Public Land: Hiking opportunities have been reduced by conversion of public lands to private lands. When land leaves the public domain, public access to those trails can be lost forever. For instance, on the Klickitat River Rail Trail, a public easement is in danger of being lost due to the objections of private landowners adjacent to the easement.

Protecting Wild Areas through Stronger Designations: Public lands can be protected through a number of designations, including Wilderness or other protective measures. Such designations protect trails from damage due to mining, logging, or motorized recreation. Trails in the Wenaha-Tucannon roadless area, featured in this Guide under the Lewis and Clark Trails heading, are prime candidates for protection through Wilderness Designation. Activists are working on the ground in the Walla Walla area to build support and win protection for these trails.

Since last year's Endangered Trails Guide, Washington Trails Association has carried out tens of thousands of hours of volunteer trail maintenance on Washington public lands. Mineral Creek Trail, featured as threatened last year because of excessive brush, has seen dramatic improvement thanks to the combined volunteer efforts of WTA, The Cascades Conservation Partnership, and employees from Microsoft. Still, there is much more work to be done. We hope you find this Guide to be engaging and that it inspires you to take action.

Before You Hit The Trail

Remember that hiking is a potentially dangerous activity. Neither the hike descriptions nor the maps contained in this guide should be considered definitive. Please contact the land management agencies cited in the guide for complete and up-to-date information, trail conditions, road quality, etc. The maps provided are for reference only. The following websites offer great trail condition information:

Washington Trails Association: www.wta.org. Click on Trip Reports
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r6/mbs
Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee
Olympic National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic
Gifford Pinchot National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r6/gpnf
Colville National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville
Umatilla National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma
National Park Service: www.nps.gov

Before you leave for *any* hike, no matter how short or simple it seems, stock your pack with the Ten Essentials:

Extra Clothing: Prepare for the worst possible climatic conditions, including insulating layers and wind and rain protection.

Extra Food: Take more food than you think you'll need, so that if you're stuck out overnight, your supplies will see you through.

Knife: Good for first aid or cutting wood.

Firestarter: Candle or chemical fuel for lighting wet wood.

First-Aid Kit: At a minimum, take Band-aids, aspirin and disinfectant.

Matches: Keep them dry with a plastic bag or other waterproof container.

Flashlight: In case you're unexpectedly on the trail after dark, pack an extra bulb and batteries.

Map: Green Trails, TOPO! or USGS Topographical maps are acceptable. The maps in this book are not.

Compass: Know how to at least find north.

Sunglasses: They will protect your eyes on sunny days or when you encounter snow.

Leave No Trace 101

In the 1970s, the sport of backpacking boomed. Back-to-the-landers streamed onto hiking trails all over the country to find quiet and a connection with nature. Unfortunately, all that use has had its impacts. People who have been hiking for decades lament the loss of microbe-free mountain water, and government agencies responsible for our wild places have had to limit access to areas like the Enchantments and the Seven Lakes Basin because of environmental damage. For all these reasons and more, it is important to practice leave-no-trace (LNT) principles no matter where you hike. Here are some general principles and resources:

Water: Treat all water with iodine tablets or use a mechanical water purifier. Parasites such as giardia, found in backcountry water worldwide, can cause serious illness. Camp, cook, and wash dishes at least 100 feet from lakes and streams. Only use soap for personal sanitation—when washing dishes, warm water is usually sufficient.

Campsites: Take care to camp in areas that have seen previous heavy use. Pristine campsites should stay that way. Lightly used ones should be allowed to rebound. High country plants take decades to grow; don't camp on them. Instead, look for bare rock.

Wildlife: Animals are attracted by food smells; prepare meals at least 100 feet from camp, downwind. Either hang all food 12 feet up in a tree, 12 feet from the trunk, or use a bear-resistant container, such as Garcia Machine's product.

Waste: Urine is sterile—but salty! In the mountains, pee on rocks rather than heather, to protect plants from salt-loving mountain goats. Bury solid human waste in holes six inches deep. Tampons should be packed out in a double-sealed ziploc bag. Hang the bag as you would hang your food, as the blood smell can attract smaller animals.

Demeanor: Except during hunting season, choose earth-toned gear, so that you blend in with your surroundings. Respect others need for quiet; don't make excess noise. When in the wilderness, don't camp too close to other hikers--one reason we go into the woods is to enjoy the expansive aloneness of the outdoors.

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Sawmill Creek

Round Trip: 10 miles round trip

Hiking Time: 4 to 6 hours (dayhike)

Elevation Gain: 2615 feet

High point: 4275 feet

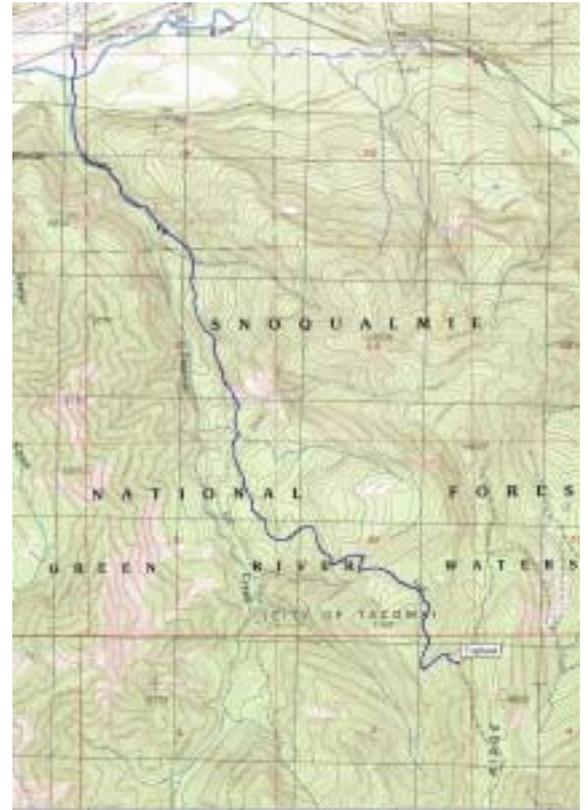
Best hiking time: June through October

Maps: Green Trails No. 239 Lester

Getting there:

From I-405 south, take 169 south. Turn east on 410, and follow 410 to Forest Road 70. Turn left onto 70, and follow it to Forest Road 7030. Turn left on FR 7030, left on FR 7032, and right on on FR 7034. Follow 7034 to the Sawmill Creek Trailhead, which will be on the left hand side of the road.

Whom to contact: Snoqualmie Ranger District, Enumclaw office (360) 825-6585



North ↑

Why You Should Go: Sawmill Creek is one of the healthiest tributaries in the heavily impacted Green River Watershed. The west bank of the creek is protected as part of the roadless Kelly Butte Special Management Area (SMA), created by Congress in 1999. The east bank is Plum Creek Timber land threatened by logging and roadbuilding if not protected. The creekside lands have it all: beautiful old-growth forest, plentiful wildlife, and a wonderful talus slope loaded with ripe red huckleberries. Bring your appetite for hucks and salal. But be warned: Sawmill is a pretty tough, wet hike, with lots of blowdowns and vine maple. The Sawmill Creek trail remains in remarkably good shape despite no official maintenance for over 20 years. For now, Sawmill Creek provides a remote, backcountry experience and opportunity for solitude. Big old Douglas firs and cedars make Sawmill a great, if challenging, hike.



Photo By David Atcheson

Sawmill Creek lands are traversed by two historic trails, the Sawmill Creek and Sawmill Ridge trails. Years ago, hikers would make a spectacular loop trip from the Green River, ascending to the Kelly Butte lookout via the Lester Creek trail and back down via the Sawmill Creek trail. Adventurous hikers with good routefinding skills may still make the trip.

Why It's Threatened: Plum Creek Timber owns this land, and The Cascades Conservation Partnership is working to purchase it and protect its abundant old growth. The company has agreed to delay logging and roadbuilding plans, but we need to purchase the first section (section 30) by the end of 2003 or the bulldozers move in. At 300 acres, section 30 is the largest of the three critical sections and will cost approximately \$2 million. Buying this section will also buy more time to acquire the other two sections. The Partnership (see box below) is working to ensure that Sawmill Creek sections become part of the Kelly Butte Special Management Area, administered by the Forest Service, when acquired. This

designation imparts protection very close to that of Wilderness. In addition to the creek, old-growth, and historic trail, Sawmill Creek section 30 contains a productive wetland and a beautiful talus slope that contribute to the diversity of habitats.

About The Cascades Conservation Partnership

The Cascades Conservation Partnership is an unprecedented three-year campaign to purchase and protect over 75,000 acres of privately owned forests that link the Alpine Lakes to Mount Rainier. These forests and corridor lands are critical wildlife habitat. Our effort will simultaneously protect 26 miles of river, 15 lakes, over 45 miles of hiking trails, and 20 miles of mountain biking trails just an hour's drive from Seattle. Look at any map of land ownership in the Central Cascades, and you'll see what looks like a checkerboard pattern--alternating parcels of public and private land. This checkerboard pattern was established in the 1800s to facilitate railroad logging. This means that wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities are fragmented and vulnerable. The Partnership aims to purchase private land in the checkerboard and donate it to the Forest Service, who will then manage it for recreation and wildlife habitat. WTA serves on the Partnership Steering Committee, and fully supports efforts to purchase and protect critical lands in the Central Cascades. For more information call (206) 675-9747.

Bedal Basin/Bedal Creek

Round Trip: 6 miles

Hiking time: 5-6 hours

Elevation Gain: 2,200 feet

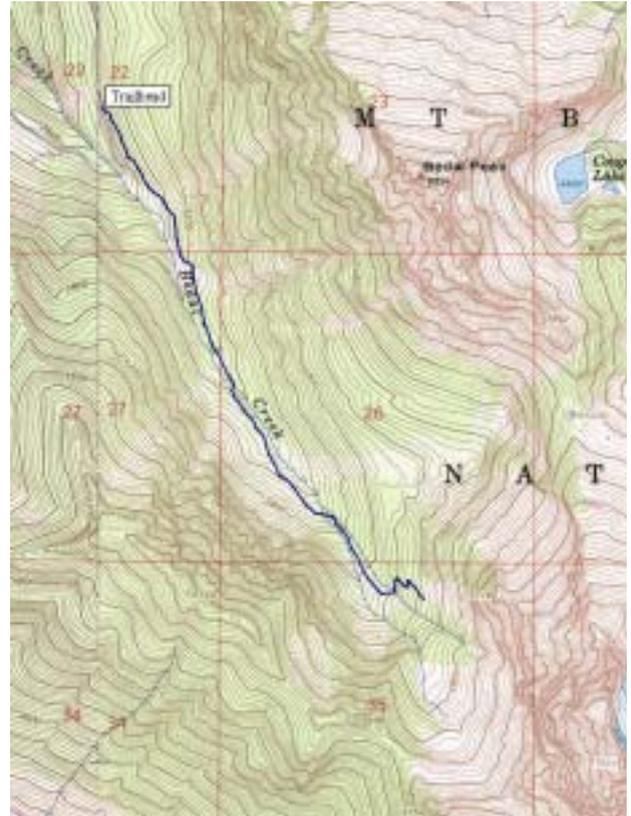
High Point: 5,000 feet

Best Hiking Time: Summer, Fall

Maps: Green Trails No. 111 Sloan Peak

Getting There: From Granite Falls turn onto Mountain Loop Highway at edge of town and drive 30.6 miles to Barlow Pass, and then six miles (north) to Forest Road 4096 – about 6.5 miles from Barlow Pass. Turn right on FS Road 4096 and continue 3 miles to the end of the road and trailhead — it may or may not be signed. Look for the trail heading uphill.

Whom to Contact: Darrington Ranger District, (360)436-1155



North ↑

Why You Should Go: This is a wild area with mountain scenery at its best. History buffs will enjoy looking for traces of a trapper's cabin for whom the basin is named. While many trails in the Monte Cristo region are crowded during hiking season, this trail is often over-looked. The trail begins by climbing through avalanche swaths interspersed with forest. Tread is hard to find when the foliage is out. You may have to find the trail with your feet. The trail nears Bedal Creek at 0.5 mile and becomes even harder to follow. There used to be a campsite here and a log that hikers crossed on. Both are gone. There has been and still is confusion as to where the original trail is from this point. There is a junction here (unsigned) with a trail going straight and another heading to the creek. Older guidebooks describe the route crossing the creek and looking for the trail on the other side. It is easier to stay straight at the junction, though a few downed trees add to the challenges. Several small streams are crossed before the trail comes to Bedal Creek at about 3,400 feet. Cross the creek – the trail returns to the forest and parallels the creek before vanishing into the streambed at

about 3,800 feet (about 1.7miles). Last time hikers were here, this spot was marked with double cairns. They come in handy on the return. Note: the cairns could well be gone as conditions change from year to year. Proceed carefully. Once you have made it this far be aware that the route changes from year to year as the creek is at times the trail. Hike up or beside the stream until you have gained about 200 feet and look for the trail leading into forest on the right side of the stream. It climbs steeply through trees (tread is faint) and enters the open basin at about 5,000 feet. Traces of the cabin remain beneath Sloan Peak. On your way back watch carefully for a split in the stream that is not apparent when you are ascending. Follow the righthand branch of the creek until you come to the double cairns and hike out the way you came in.

Why It's Threatened: The main reason this trail is threatened is that it is becoming almost impossible to hike. Many hikers have attempted to follow the trail and have failed through no fault of their own. This is a rough, brushy, overgrown trail and the multiple stream crossings present challenges even for experienced hikers. Route-finding skills are a must. There are no signs once you leave the trailhead and you are truly on your own. The trail has not been maintained in years and is unlikely to be though it is still on the database. Like Kelley and Lennox Creeks (hikes 3 and 8), this trail has not been maintained due to lack of funding. The tight financial situation of the Mount Baker-Snoqalmie National Forest--and all other forests--has forced them to adopt a prioritization process that threatens wonderful but little used trails like Bedal Creek

Take Action: Call Jonathan Guzzo at Washington Trails Association for information on how to advocate for trails like Bedal Basin: (206)625-1367 or jonathan@wta.org.



Photo By Karen Sykes

Kelley Creek Trail

Round Trip: 6.6 miles

Hiking time: 4-6 hours

Elevation Gain: 2,000 feet

High Point: 5,000 feet

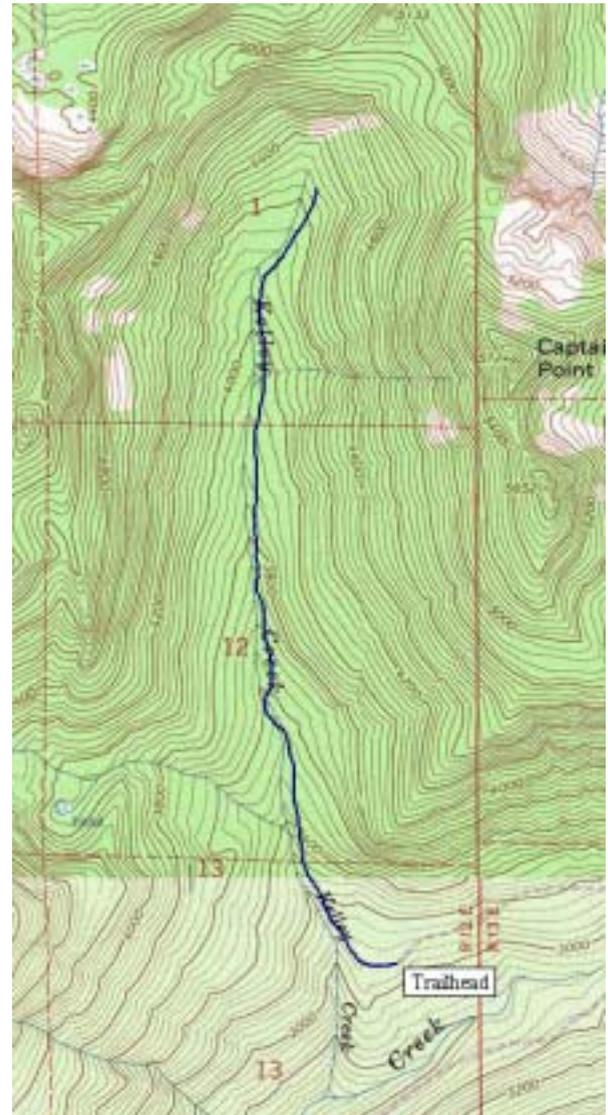
Best Hiking Time: Summer, fall

Maps: Green Trails No. 144 Benchmark Mountain

Getting There: From US 2 at milepost 55, turn left on FS Road 67 (Old Cascade Highway). At 2.2 miles turn left at Martin Creek Road Junction (FS 6710) and continue to a bridge over Martin Creek about 5.5 miles from US 2. Just beyond the bridge look for parking in a small space on overgrown spur road (left). The overgrown road is the beginning of the hike.

Whom to Contact: Skykomish Ranger District, (360)677-2414

Why You Should Go: This abandoned, old trail is scenic, remote, and offers an alternate approach to Johnson Ridge/Scorpion Mountain. You will see old growth trees, streams, old puncheon and artifacts. The trail is also an adventure where route-finding skills may come into play. Anonymous volunteers occasionally brush out the trail. The hike begins on an old logging road which is growing over with alders, willow, fireweed for a cairn and a berm with water running across the road. Look for a flag (right) and other vegetation. Hike the road and look follow the faint tread through trees. Cross a small stream and find a home-made sign on a tree that points to Johnson Ridge (trail number 1067). The trail continues to Kelley Creek and follows the creek. Just before the trail



North ↑

heads uphill you'll come to a large cedar tree and blowdown blocking the trail. Here, bear right and look for faint tread – it will begin to switchback uphill. Look for old blazes — tread is very faint in spots while other sections are clear and easy to follow. Just before the ridge the trail grows faint where it is overgrown with small rhododendrons and other vegetation. According to other hikers, this section is slippery. From the ridge hikers with routefinding skills can run the ridge to Scorpion Mountain (left). There are good views of Mount Fernow, Sloan Peak and several Wenatchee area peaks. You can also scramble to Captain Point from the trail.

Why It's Threatened: Lack of use, lack of public knowledge, and lack of funds for trail maintenance have all contributed to the loss of this trail. Though the trail remains on the Forest Service database it is rapidly losing ground. The trailhead is hard to find, the section on the road is brushy, and the tread is growing more faint with each passing season.

Take Action: Contact your member of Congress and let him or her know that you think funding for hiking trails is extremely important and a benefit for you as a hiker. Contact Jonathan Guzzo for more information at (206)625-1367 or jonathan@wta.org.

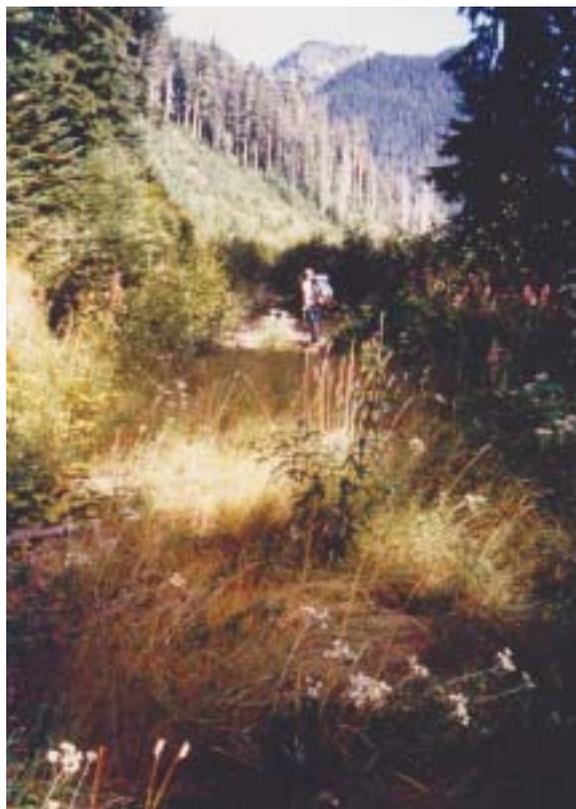


Photo by Karen Sykes

Lewis and Clark area Trails (Upper Tucannon River, Sheep Creek, and Cummins Creek)

Round Trip: roughly 22 miles round trip

Hiking time: 2-3 dayhikes

Elevation Gain: 2,500 feet

High Point: 5,000 feet

Best Hiking Time: Late Spring, Early Fall

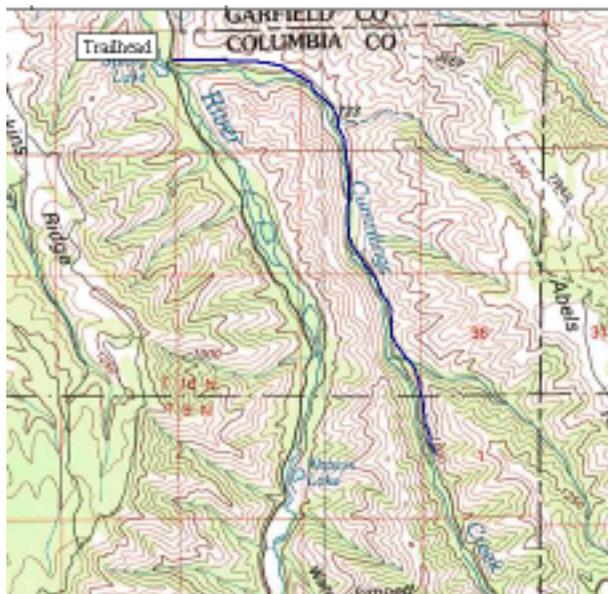
Maps: USGS Stentz Spring and Hopkins Ridge

Getting There: From State Highway 12, about 13 miles north of Dayton, drive south on the Tucannon Road, which becomes Forest Road 47. Follow road 47 to the bridge at Panjab and take the left up road 4712, which continues to follow to the Tucannon River. Park at Sheep Creek.

For Cummins Creek (map below) Follow Tucannon Road to Spring Lake . Park at the Spring Lake parking lot. The hike up Cummins Creek follows an old closed road.



North ↑



Why You Should Go: This trail is adjacent to the Upper Tucannon River and Willow Springs Roadless areas. This year marks the 25th anniversary of this Wilderness Area and immediately due north and very nearby is the Lewis and Clark Trail. The Walla Walla Indians in met the Corps of Discovery in April/May 1806 and after some great fiddle playing and dancing, told the Lewis and Clark Expedition about a shortcut that saved the Corps some 80 miles as they returned eastbound to Lolo Pass and Nez Perce country. Sheep Creek and the Upper Tucannon are examples of rare, cool, moist eastside forests. These areas

have morels in the spring and chanterelles in the fall. The Upper Tucannon supports bull trout, steelhead, and chinook salmon. Black bear, mule deer, and elk are also seen in this area. American Indians used this area in the spring as places for berry, herbs, and root gathering, as well as for hunting. Sheep Creek Falls has been designated by the USFS as a Natural Research Area due to the unusual variety of flora, including mosses and ferns. These areas were left out of the 1978 Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness Area bill. Wilderness designation would solve many of the problems in these beautiful and sadly unprotected areas.



Photo by Chase Davis

Why It's Threatened: The potential problems in this area are: illegal use of dirt bikes and ORVs on non-motorized designated trails, and at the higher elevations (on the benches/plateaus above the river/creek canyons that characterize the Blue Mtns.) snowmobile use is also a problem.

What is Wilderness?

Wilderness is the strongest designation available for public lands. Wilderness areas are protected from logging and mining, as well as "mechanized use" such as ORVs, dirtbikes, snowmobiles, and mountain bikes. Washington State has 4 million acres of designated Wilderness in National Parks, National Forests, and Bureau of Land Management land. Wilderness can only be conferred by an act of Congress, so it is the most durable and strict form of protection available. Statewide, groups are working to protect unprotected roadless areas as Wilderness. Most of these groups are members of the Wild Washington Campaign, of which WTA is a Steering Committee member. Visit them at www.wawild.org.

Potential timber harvest (and perhaps even some unnecessary prescribed fire) is also a problem in Willow Springs.

Take Action: Contact Congressman Nethercutt--see the end of this Guide--and urge him to support protection for these areas. Also contact Chase Davis, at the Inland Northwest Sierra Club office: (509) 456-8802 or chase.davis@sierraclub.org

Silver Star

Round Trip: from the south (Grouse Vista) 11 miles; from the north (Road 4109) 4.5 miles

Hiking Time: from the south 7 hours, from the north 4 hours

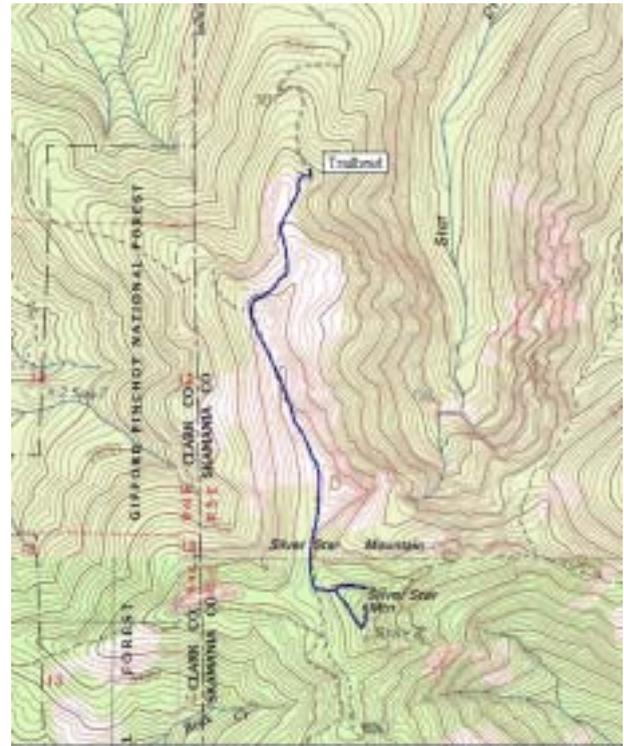
Elevation Gain: from the south 2,000 feet, from the north 1,150 feet

High Point: 4390 feet

Best Hiking Time: June through October

Maps: Green Trails No. 396 Lookout Mountain

Whom to contact: Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Gifford Pinchot NF: (360) 247-3900



North ↑

Getting There: From the South: From Washougal, take the Washougal River Road (SR 140) about 10 miles. Where the road makes a right turn and crosses the river, go straight ahead for 0.5 mile, then left on Sky Road for 3.7 miles. At the county line, turn right on the Skamania Mine Road. Just under 0.5 mile from the turn, go right, lose elevation and cross a bridge. At 2.8 miles from Sky Road, go left on DNR Road 1200 another 4.3 miles to Grouse Creek Vista, elevation 2375 feet. The sign says Tarbell Trail.

From the North: From Battle Ground, take SR 503 north about 6.5 miles and turn right on Rock Creek Road (which becomes Lucia Falls Road). In about 9 miles, just pass Moulton Falls County Park, turn right on Sunset Falls Road/County Road 12. Go about 7 miles to Sunset Campground and turn right into the campground. Go straight ahead onto Forest Road 41, cross a bridge, turn sharply left and begin climbing a ridge. In about 5 miles, the road descends; take a sharp right turn onto Road 4109 and cross a bridge, then begin climbing the flank of Silver Star Mountain. The road begins to break out into meadows and finally ends at the trailhead parking area.

Why You Should Go: Regardless of how you get to the summit of Silver Star Mountain, the views are exceptional. On a clear day, the panorama includes Mounts St. Helens, Rainier, Adams, Hood and Jefferson, the long silver ribbon of the Columbia River, downtown Portland and Vancouver, Saddle Mountain in the Oregon Coast Range, and many landmarks in the Columbia River Gorge. The path to the summit goes through miles of wildflower meadows. In 1902, Silver Star was swept by the Yacolt Burn and the forest has yet to return 100 years later. Hikers glory in miles of ridgetop meadows with a diverse display of flowers.



Photo by Dan Nelson

Motorized Trail Use

Beginning with the advent of off-road vehicles in the 1970's, land management agencies have converted non-motorized trails to motorized trails. This has resulted in the loss of non-motorized recreation opportunities in National Forests such as the Gifford Pinchot and Wenatchee. Many hikers stop using a trail once it is used by motorized vehicles, as many of the best parts of backcountry hiking are lost in the presence of motorized vehicles.

It is particularly galling when motorized trail users illegally traverse non-motorized trails. It is incumbent upon the Forest Service and other land management agencies to properly gate non-motorized trails and to provide enforcement on non-motorized trail adjacent to motorized recreation areas.

Why It's Threatened: Despite being closed to motorized use in the 1990 Forest Plan, riders on motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and four-wheel drive rigs continue to climb over or around the barricades and run up and down the trails and through the meadows. Signs and barriers are repeatedly vandalized and old road scars never get a chance to heal. It's difficult and expensive to develop barriers that are impassable to motorized vehicles and invulnerable to vandalism.

Take Action: Encourage the Forest Service to install more effective barriers to motorized vehicles and to put more effort into enforcement of the motorized use closure. Call WTA at (206) 625-1367 for more information.

Boundary Trail (Council Lake to Divide Camp)

Round Trip: 8 miles

Hiking Time: 4-6 hours

High Point: 4,600 feet

Elevation Gain: 800 feet

Best Hiking Time: July - October

Maps: USGS Steamboat Mountain 1926, Columbia National Forest 1932

Whom to contact: Cowlitz Valley Ranger District, (360)497-1100

Getting There: From Randle or Trout Lake, take Forest Road 23 to Babyshoe Pass. The abandoned trail segment goes from Council Lake to the Divide Camp Trail #112 in the Mount Adams Wilderness.



North ↑

Why You Should Go: This segment of Boundary Trail #1 has been abandoned for many years, but the tread still is visible on the ground. This is the missing link to connect Mount St. Helens to Mount Adams and the Pacific Crest Trail by hiker and equestrian trail. Back in the 1960s, scouts and YMCA campers at Spirit Lake would climb Mount St. Helens, then backpack for 3 days on the Boundary Trail to Mount Adams and climb that peak for their week at camp.

This area of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest contains some of the finest hiking in the Cascades. It is close to the Dark Divide Roadless Area (see box below) and several Wilderness areas, including beautiful and precious Indian Heaven. A number of logged areas in the Southern Gifford Pinchot are beginning to rebound as they age, giving rise to the possibility that protected status might lead to better habitat for threatened species, and more recreation opportunities for hikers.

Why It's Threatened: When trails are abandoned, it is difficult to get them back. The Forest Service must first get the abandoned trail returned to the inventory of regularly maintained trails. This requires the Forest Service to do environmental studies that, though important and necessary, are time consuming.



Photo by Susan Saul

Take Action: Work with WTA and the Forest Service to seek funding for the research needed to return this section to the inventory so that it can be rebuilt. Write to your member of Congress and urge him or her to appropriate funds for environmental reviews and trail construction. Contact Jonathan Guzzo at (206) 625-1367 or jonathan@wta.org.

Dark Divide Roadless Area

The Dark Divide is a 57,000 acre roadless area in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. comprised of a series of ridges and deep old growth rich valleys, the Dark Divide offers huge displays of wildflowers in season, sightings of mountain goats in the high rocks, and ample habitat for spotted owls and other endangered species. From ridges, hikers can soak in views of Mount St. Helens, Mount Rainier, Mount Adams, Mount Jefferson and the Goat Rocks.

Despite this, the Dark Divide is unprotected. Of 100 miles of trails, only 10 are nonmotorized. this area affords wonderful opportunities for wildlife and trails of historical interest, but it is gradually being degraded by motorized use. Wilderness could save it. Call Jonathan Guzzo at (206) 625-1367 or email him at jonathan@wta.org to find out how you can help.

Klickitat River Rail Trail (Lyle to Warwick)

Round Trip: 62 miles

Hiking Time: 2-3 days

High Point: 1,500 feet

Elevation Gain: 1,400 feet

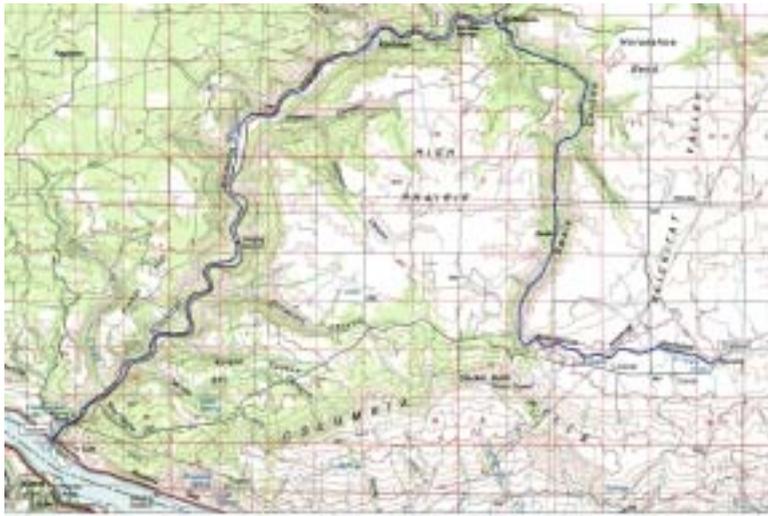
Best Hiking Time: March through November

Maps: USGS Stacker Butte

Getting There: From Lyle, take State Route 142 north about ½ mile to a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife access area. You can park here and start walking upriver on the old rail bed. The first 12 miles are in the Klickitat River Wild and Scenic River corridor. The trestle across the Klickitat River is missing at Mile 15 and segments of the roadbed were damaged in the 1996 flood. To start at Warwick, take the Lyle-Centerville Road to Harms Road, go left on Harms Road to a crossing of Swale Creek and the rail trail at the upper end of Swale Canyon.

Whom to contact: Friends of the Columbia Gorge: Tiffany Kenslow, (541)386-5268.

Klickitat Trail Conservancy: Bob Hansen, (509)365-2404



North ↑

Why You Should Go: The rail trail hugs the scenic Klickitat River for the first 18 miles, before turning east up Swale Canyon for 13 miles and climbing into a more desert environment. The rail trail terminates at Warwick on the edge of the Goldendale Plateau. While the Lyle-to-Wahkiacus segment lies within sight of State Route 142, the Wahkiacus-to-Warwick segment is roadless. The Klickitat River landscape is forested with Oregon white oak and ponderosa pine in the transition zone

between the Cascades and Eastern Washington and the entire trail is heavily dotted with wildflowers in the spring. The State Parks right-of-way is only a few feet wide, with no room for camping. This is not a developed trail, so the footing is rough and the trestles are crossed by walking on the ties.

Why It's Threatened: The federal government originally deeded large sections of the Lyle-to-Goldendale rail corridor to Burlington Northern in the late 19th century. Burlington Northern abandoned the rail line in 1992 and sold its rights to the Lyle-to- Warwick section to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The conservancy then granted the U.S. Forest Service an exclusive license to use the Klickitat River Rail Trail. In 1994, the Conservancy donated the land to Washington State Parks, subject to its agreement with the Forest Service for development of a public trail. Legal opinions and decisions have affirmed public ownership, yet trail opponents argue that the trail land is their private property. A federal appeals court dismissed their claim for compensation for the “take” of their land along the rail corridor in 1996. The Washington State Attorney General has stated that the property is publicly owned and available for use by the public. Surveys and community council resolutions show that the towns of Klickitat and Lyle support the trail. Landowners brought pressure on State Parks to keep them from developing the trail. State Parks considered giving ownership of the trail back to Rails-to-Trails. Since the Conservancy does not manage land, this would have led to eventual loss of the trail. State Parks ultimately decided to keep title to the trail, although local landowners continue to fight.

Take Action: State Parks has done the right thing. Now they need our help. Contact Jonathan Guzzo at (206) 625-1367 or by email at jonathan@wta.org to find out how to help State Parks. Join a WTA work party on the trail when construction begins. State Parks will hold meetings on management of the Klickitat Rail Trail this summer. Be sure to attend one in your area.



Photo by David Melody

Lennox Creek

Distance: 9 miles

Hiking Time: Dayhike or backpack

High Point: 4600 feet

Elevation Gain: 1900 feet

Best Hiking Time: July through October

Maps: Green Trails No. 174 Mount Si and No. 175 Skykomish

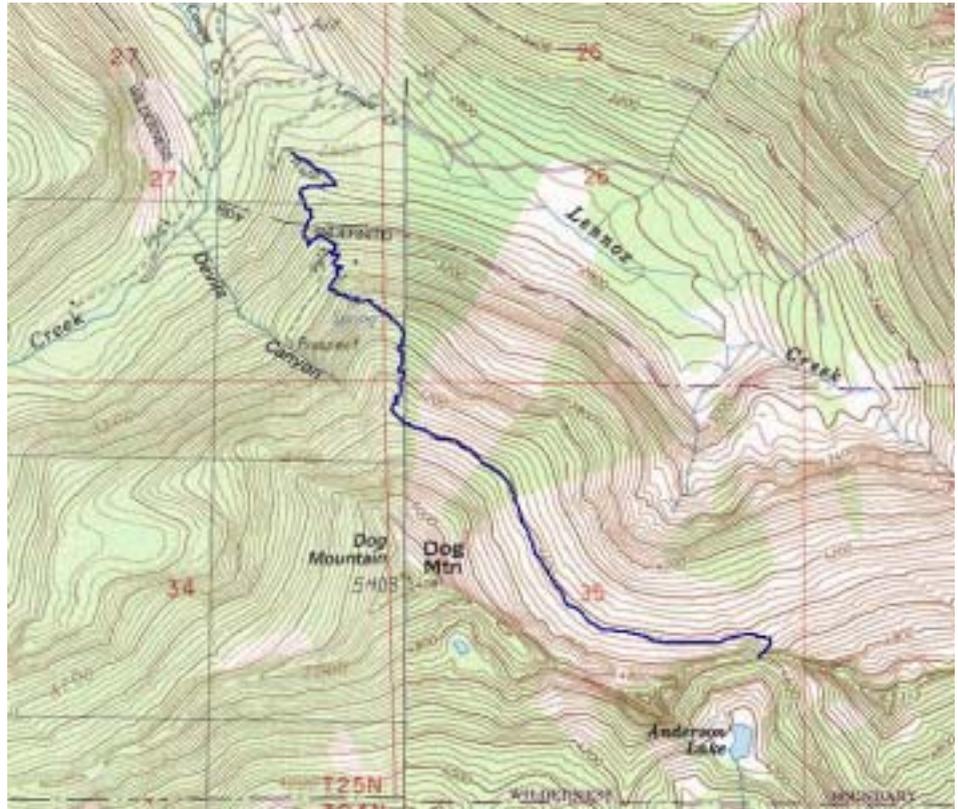
Getting There: From I-90, take exit 31. Go two blocks east of the stoplight and turn north on Ballaratt St which leads to North Fork County Road. Take the road to the border of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Shortly after passing the Bare Mountain Trail, you'll hit the road washout. Walk the road to the trailhead.

Whom to contact:

North Bend Ranger

District, (425)888-

1421



North ↑

Why You Should Go: Lennox Creek is wet, rocky, and brushy. It's also lonesome, wild and beautiful. Starting 1.5 miles from a road washout, the trail traverses a long uphill section that is severely gullied and rock laden. A few sections have hikers scrabbling across wet roots to stay in control and on the trail. Hikers pass through a relatively new forest with isolated pockets of splendid old cedars. Soon enough, though, the trail breaks out onto a high sideslope hike featuring expansive views across the Lennox Creek valley. Ground-clinging blue huckleberries are among the sweetest to be encountered. This slope is loaded with picturesque iron-ore laden boulders. Keep you eyes as the trail tacks upward and into a notch over Anderson Lake. Here commences a short-but-steep hike up and over the edge. A steep downhill trail leads you from the notch to Anderson Lake. Views from the notch are really stunning, including Garfield Mountain's backside. That's your reward for the slog up the trail.

Why It's Threatened: Lennox Creek is well off the beaten path and isolated by a road washout. When trails are inaccessible for whatever reason, they tend to see less maintenance than they need, and can drop from the inventory. We recommend that the road past the washout be decommissioned and turned into an extension of the Lennox Creek Trail. This would extend an already great hike.

Take Action: Contact Washington Trails Association to help advocate for the Lennox Creek Trail. Call Jonathan Guzzo at (206)625-1367 or jonathan@wta.org.



Photo by Jonathan Guzzo

Rugged Ridge/North Snider-Jackson

Round Trip: 12.5 miles

Hiking Time: 4-6 hours

High Point: 1700 Feet

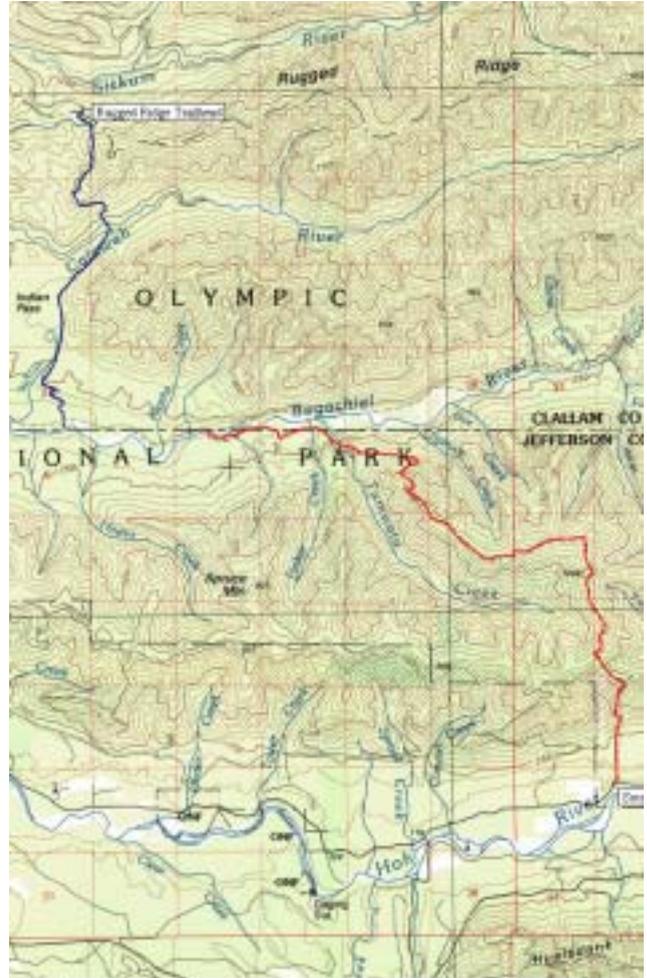
Elevation Gain: 500 Feet

Best Hiking Time: May through November

Getting There: Take Highway 101 to Forest Service Road 29, one mile north of Forks, WA. There is a sign for the Rugged Ridge Trail at this intersection. Travel east on FS Road 29 11 miles to the end of its paved section and veer south onto the unmarked 070 spur for 2.2 miles to the trailhead parking. The trailhead is several yards back down the hill from the parking lot on the south side of the road.

Whom to Contact: Olympic National Park, (360)565-3130

Why You Should Go: If for no other reason, you should visit the Rugged Ridge Trail for the sheer pleasure of driving on the paved and exquisitely maintained Forest Service Road 29 and now excellent 070 spur - though here the brush hangs fairly low. Not many such roads are maintained to this standard and it is delightful to drive them without even the slightest fear of breaking your axle. The hike itself is a moderate route accessible year round. You'll journey through old growth cedars, western hemlock, and Douglas fir. The forest floor is generally spare and dry, while giving



North ↑

a way to dips filled with Oregon grape, salal, deer fern, staghorn fern, and trillium. Lush swaths of sorrel and deer fern edge the trail. The Rugged Ridge Trail offers an alternate entre to the Bogachiel River Trail, which continues on another into the heart of the Olympics. Another option is traveling just four miles east on the Bogachiel River will bring you to the South-Snider Jackson Trail, which reaches the Upper Hoh River Road after 11 miles of southward travel.

Why It's Threatened: The Rugged Ridge Trail is a long four hours with ferry ride from Seattle, 5 hours from Olympia, and far from most other Olympic Peninsula hiking opportunities. It's also less than half an hour's drive from the Pacific Ocean, and undoubtedly loses visitors to the coast. Though in good shape now, the Rugged Ridge Trail is a low maintenance priority for the Olympic National Park. The trail is already narrow with vegetation hugging each side. A mid-trail river ford provides hikers with a turn-around point without hiking the entire trail. The portion of trail between the Calawah River and the Bogachiel River was once known as Indian Pass Trail. Even though this trail does not see a large amount of foot traffic, in these days of tight National Park budgets, we have to be committed to maintaining a full spectrum of recreation opportunities. We'll do that by preserving trails like Rugged Ridge through hard work and partnerships. Without more attention paid to it, The Rugged Ridge Trail or North Snider Jackson Trail could go the way of it's southern leg, which officially receives "little to no maintenance."

Take Action: Work with Washington Trails Association to maintain the Rugged Ridge/Bogachiel/South Snider-Jackson Trail complex. Contact Jonathan Guzzo at (206) 625-1367 or jonathan@wta.org

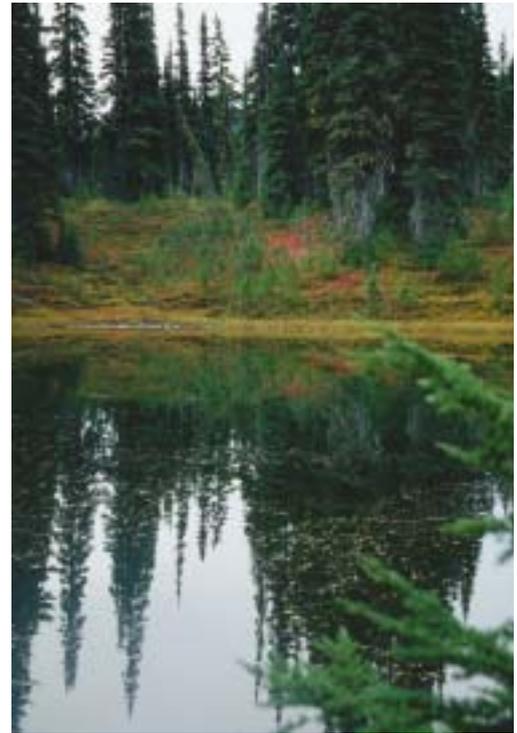


Photo by Dan Nelson

A Possible New Opportunity . . . Gold Creek/East Crossing

Note: Gold Creek/East Crossing has been included in the Guide to highlight a new trail opportunity that hikers should pursue. The Olympic National Forest has recently conducted an Access and Travel Management (ATM) planning process, which means they took long, hard look at the roads on their forest, and decided that they didn't need all of them--so they made the decision to close about 1/3 of them. Many of these decommissioned roads will be turned into trails, and many more might as well, in individual circumstances. In many places, road-to-trail conversions will be the future of our trail system.

Round Trip: 17.2 miles one way

High Point: 3200 feet

Elevation Gain: 1600 feet

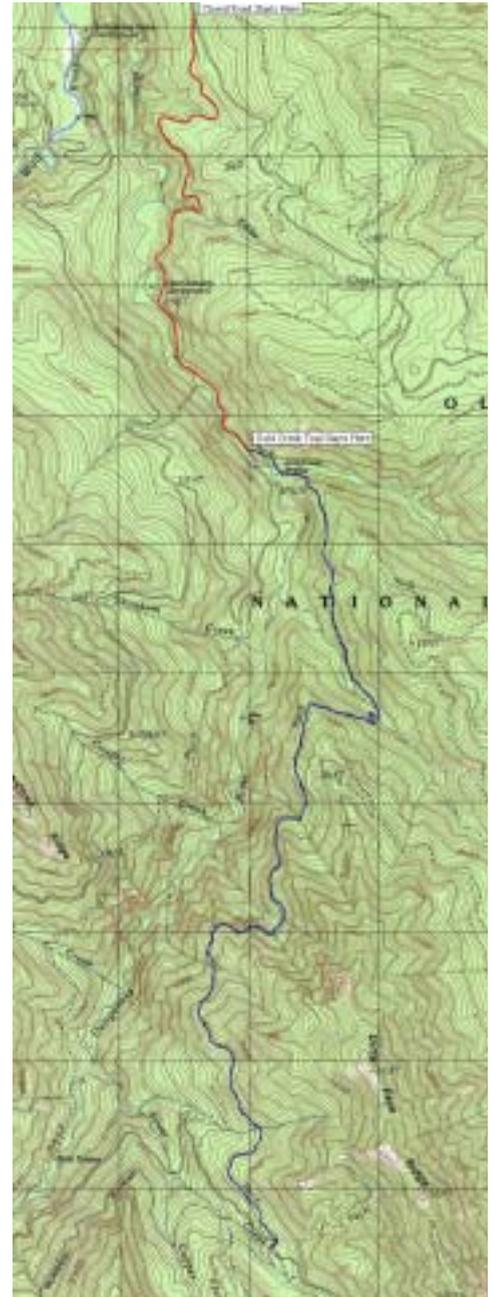
Hiking Time: Dayhike or backpack

Best Hiking Time: June through October

Maps: Green Trails No. 136 Tyler Peak

Directions: Turn off Highway 101 in the vicinity of Sequim Bay State Park, on either Palo Alto Road or Louella Road. Follow the paved road up for about five miles to Palo Alto. The road then makes two doglegs; a junction follows, keep right on pavement, Schmith Knob meadows will be on the right. This area is now Forest Service land. The paved County road ends after Schmith Knob, In a short distance is a right turn to the closed 2860 Road. Park here, and walk 40 minutes down this old road to the now decommissioned East Crossing Campground.

Whom to Contact: Quilcene Ranger District, (360)765-2200



North ↑

Why We Should do this: The closed road/trail can be a little muddy at first, caused by the slumping of the water heavy roadbed and slopes, but then becomes a pleasant walk as the now wide trail allows for conversational walking. Views are of large Douglas firs, the rushing waters of Eddy Creek, and glimpses into the Dungeness Canyon.

Once at the River, explore the old camp loop to the right, which has good access to the River and opportunities to approach very large Douglas firs. Picnic tables, fire pits and outhouses have all been removed, as part of Forest Service decommissioning policy. The old campground makes a good turn around point for a 2 to 3 hour outing. For a longer outing, continue along the River on the old road nearly a mile to the bridge that crosses to the west side.

The Gold Creek Trail starts just before the bridge, and provides a distinct contrast with the open areas along the River. A short walk gets you into the middle of classic Dungeness River old-growth forest and intermittent rock walls, locally referred to as Dirty Faces. Gold Creek itself is only a quarter mile walk, and marks the end of salmon spawning, as just up river is The Gorge, where waterfalls block migration further upstream. Across the creek is an old shelter site (not rebuilt). Continuing up river, a careful observer will see the remains of an old horse/hiker bridge over the river. The Gold Creek Trail continues uphill behind the shelter site to Sleepy Hollow and eventually the Tubal Cain area.

Back at the bridge that crosses the Dungeness, signs indicate State Fishery efforts to increase nutrients in the river to help restore salmon migration. Water ouzels (dippers) can be regularly observed feeding in the swift waters. The old road/trail continues west uphill to the Lower Dungeness Trailheads that can be reached via the 2870 Road. A short walk up this old road will provide a view of a remarkable Douglas fir, down slope to the left.

How We Can Make This Happen: When a good trail opportunity appears, we need to speak up for it. Call the Quilcene Ranger District, and urge them to turn road 2860 into a trail. Call Washington Trails Association as well. We'd like to know that you're interested in this potential new opportunity.



Photo by Lace Thornberg

TAKE ACTION! Elected Officials' Contact Information

Senators

Name:Patty Murray

Phone: (202) 224-2621

Fax: (202) 224-0238

Email: senator_murray@murray.senate.gov

Name:Maria Cantwell

Phone: (202) 224-3441

Fax: (202) 228-0514

Representatives

Jay Inslee—1st Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-6311

Fax: (202) 225-3524

Rick Larsen—2nd Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-2605

Fax: (202) 225-4420

Brian Baird—3rd Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-3536

Fax: (202) 225-3478

Doc Hastings—4th Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-5816

Fax: (202) 225-3251

George Nethercutt—5th Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-2006

Fax: (202) 225-3392

Norman Dicks—6th Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-5916

Fax: (202) 226-1176

James McDermott—7th Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-3106

Fax: (202) 553-7175

Jennifer Dunn—8th Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-7761

Fax: (202) 225-8673

Adam Smith—9th Dist.

Phone: (202) 225-8901

Fax: (202) 225-5893

National Parks and Forests in Washington

North Cascades National Park

2105 Highway 20

Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

(360) 865-5700

Olympic National Park

3002 Mt. Angeles Rd

Port Angeles, WA 98362

(360) 565-3130

Mount Rainier National Park

Tahoma Woods, Star Route

Ashford, WA 98304-9751

(360) 569-2211 XT 3314

Colville National Forest

765 S Main St

Colville, WA 99114

(509) 684-7000

Gifford Pinchot National Forest

10600 NE 51 Circle

Vancouver, WA 98682

(360) 891-5001

Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

21905 64th Ave W

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

(425)775-9702

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

215 Melody Lane

Wenatchee, WA 98801

(509) 662-4335

Olympic National Forest

1835 Black Lake Blvd SW

Olympia, WA 98502

(360) 956-2400

TRAIL	BEST TIME TO HIKE	MILES	ELEVATION GAIN	DIFFICULTY	VIEWS	WATERFALLS	BIG TREES	SUMMITS	FLOWERS
SAWMILL CREEK	SUMMER	10	2615 FEET	DIFFICULT	YES	NO	YES	YES	SUMMER
BEDAL BASIN	SUMMER	6	2200 FEET	DIFFICULT	YES	YES	YES	NO	SUMMER
KELLEY CREEK	SUMMER	6.6	2000 FEET	DIFFICULT	YES	NO	YES	NO	SUMMER
LEWIS AND CLARK	SUMMER	22	2500 FEET	MODERATE	YES	YES	YES	NO	SPRING
SILVER STAR	SUMMER	11	2000 FEET	MODERATE	YES	NO	NO	YES	SUMMER
BOUNDARY TRAIL	SUMMER	8	800	DIFFICULT	YES	NO	YES	YES	SUMMER
KLICKITAT RAIL TRAIL	SPRING	62	1500 FEET	EASY	YES	NO	YES	NO	SUMMER
LENNOX CREEK	SUMMER	9	1900 FEET	DIFFICULT	YES	YES	YES	YES	SUMMER
NORTH SNIDER JACKSON	LATE SPRING	12.5	500 FEET	MODERATE	YES	NO	YES	NO	SUMMER
GOLD CREEK	SUMMER	17.2	1600 FEET	MODERATE	YES	YES	YES	YES	SUMMER



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