

# TRAIL GUIDE

Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce www.thesisterscountry.com

Special thanks to



Deschutes National Forest



# DAY USE OF USFS TRAILS

Always use good judgement when using or traveling over trails and roads. Some are not maintained and may be hazardous. Weather and other conditions can change without notice, so carry clothing for rain and cold temperatures. Always carry adequate water for all hikes and never drink trailside water from lakes and streams unless marked "potable" by the Forest Service. Food, matches, first-aid kit, flashlight, compass and maps are also essential. Deschutes and Willamette National Forest Maps, the McKenzie River National Recreation Trail Map , and the Three Sisters, Mt. Washington, and Mt. Jefferson Wilderness maps are available at Forest Service Stations. Mosquito repellent should also be carried along in late spring and summer months. As a safety precaution, always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return. Dogs should be on a leash or controlled by voice command. Be sure to have appropriate parking and trail permits for specific destinations. *The Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce and its members are not responsible for losses or injuries incurred when utilizing this information*.

# Wilderness Areas and US Forest Service Land Uses

Wilderness Areas have a delicate state of natural balance. Careless acts by people can upset this balance, resulting in destruction of the wilderness environment. The following practices will help preserve the wilderness for everyone's enjoyment.

- 1. **Travel to avoid impacts:** When using trails go single file in the middle of the trail. Avoid making new or multiple trails
- 2. **Water:** protect water by washing at least 200 feet from water sources using biodegradable soaps. In addition, keep food and garbage out of lakes, rivers and streams.
- 3. Human Waste: Always bury human waste and toilet paper in a 6 inch deep hole.
- 4. **Make and Leave a No-Trace Camp:** Camp on durable or already impacted sites. Pick up every trace of litter. Make only small fires. Erase all signs of fire. Pack out all trash, yours and others, especially tin foil.
- 5. **Dogs:** please keep your dog under control at all times.
- 6. **Obey all signs:** the signs posted are there for the protection and safety of the land, animals and humans.
- 7. **Permits:** be sure to carry appropriate parking, wilderness, snow park or State Park permits as required for the location.
- 8. **Cell phone coverage** can be spotty in some areas, such as the Metolius Basin. Do not depend on cell phones; plan ahead for emergencies.

The US Congress defines Wilderness as: A Wilderness, in contrast with areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Back country ethics are important in keeping Wilderness wild. Minimum impact hiking and camping are vital to help preserve and protect natural features we all seek.





# SISTERS RANGER DISTRICT SUMMER TRAILS

SISTERS COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE

Trail Name	No.	Season	Trail Park Fee*	Length (miles)	Elevation Low-High	Difficulty	Hiking	Horse	Mtn Biking
Black Butte	4026	Summer/Fall	\$	2.0	4800-6436	Moderate	OK	Permit	Prohibited
Black Crater	4058	Summer/Fall	\$	3.8	4900-7251	Difficult	OK	ОК	Prohibited
Brush Creek	4004	Summer/Fall	\$	4.5	4400-6250	Difficult	OK	Ok	Prohibited
Butte Loops	4093	Summer/Fall	N/A	23.0	3400-4000	Difficult	OK	Prohibited	ОК
Cabot Lake	4003	Summer/Fall	\$	15.1	4550-6000	Moderate	OK	ОК	Prohibited
Camp Lake	4074	Summer/Fall	\$	5.0	5750-6950	Moderate	OK	ОК	Prohibited
Camp Sherman "H"	4095	Spring/ Summer/Fall	N/A	2.3	2980	Easy	OK	Prohibited	ОК
Canyon Glacier	4010	Summer/Fall	\$	1.8	5200-5500	Moderate	OK	ОК	Prohibited
Dark Lake	4032.1	Summer/Fall	N/A	1.5	3620	Moderate	Ok	Ok	ОК
Demaris Lake	4074.1	Summer/Fall	\$	0.8	6250-6450	Moderate	OK	ОК	Prohibited
Dry Creek	4050	Summer/Fall	\$	4.7	4600-5000	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
East Metolius River	4020	Spring/ Summer/Fall	N/A	6.3	2900-3000	Easy	OK	Prohibited	Prohibited
Green Lakes	4070	Summer/Fall	\$	15.0	5600-6500	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Head of Jack Creek	4016	Spring/ Summer/Fall	\$	0.3	3200-3240	Easy	OK	Prohibited	Prohibited
Head of Metolius	4022	Spring/ Summer/Fall	N/A	0.2	3000-3020	Easy	OK	Prohibited	Prohibited
Jefferson Lake	4001	Summer/Fall	\$	9.2	3100-5300	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Lava Camp Lake	4060	Summer/Fall	\$	0.5	5190	Moderate	OK	ОК	Prohibited
Little Three Creek Lake	4076	Summer/Fall	\$	1.1	6400-6600	Easy	Ok	ОК	ОК
Metolius-Windigo	99	Summer/Fall	N/A	37.6	2900-6400	Various		ОК	
MIIIican Crater	4066	Summer/Fall	\$	4.6	4870-5120	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Minto Lake	4006	Summer/Fall	\$	4.2	4160-5200	Moderate	Ok	ок	Prohibited
Minto Pass Tie	4015	Summer/Fall	\$	0.4	5200-5600	Difficult	Ok	ОК	Prohibited

\* \$ = Trail Park Pass or Deschutes National Forest Pass required at Trailhead





# SISTERS RANGER DISTRICT SUMMER TRAILS

SISTERS COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE

Trail Name	No.	Season	Trail Park Fee*	Length (miles)	Elevation Low-High	Difficulty	Hiking	Horse	Mtn Biking
North Matthieu Lake	4062	Summer/Fall	\$	1.3	5320-5600	Moderate	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Pacific Crest	2000	Summer/Fall	\$	43.4	4600-5800	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Park Meadow	4075	Summer/Fall	\$	6.3	6000-6400	Moderate	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Pole Creek	4072	Summer/Fall	\$	1.4	5300-5900	Difficult	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Rockpile Lake	4005	Summer/Fall	\$	4.3	4160-5600	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Round Lake	4012	Summer/Fall	\$	1.9	4400-4880	Moderate	Ok	ок	Prohibited
Scott Pass	4068	Summer/Fall	\$	3.3	4900-6100	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Shirley Lake	4003.1	Summer/Fall	\$	1.5	4800-5600	Moderate	OK	ок	Prohibited
Shut-In	4096	Summer/Fall	N/A	1.9	2100-2400	Moderate	Ok	ок	ОК
Sisters MBT	4090	Spring/ Summer/Fall	N/A	15.0	3200-3800	Moderate	Ok	Prohibited	ОК
Sisters Tie	4092	Spring/ Summer/Fall	N/A	6.6	3300-3330	Moderate	ОК	ОК	ОК
Whychus Creek Falls	4080	Summer/Fall	\$	0.9	4800-5200	Moderate	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Sugar Pine Ridge	4002	Summer/Fall	\$	6.7	3200-5900	Moderate	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Summit Lake	4014	Summer/Fall	\$	10.7	4720-5600	Moderate	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Suttle Lake Loop	4030	Summer/Fall	N/A	3.2	3450-3500	Moderate	ОК	ок	Prohibited
Suttle Tie	4094	Spring/ Summer/Fall	\$	5.0	3200-3400	Easy	ОК	Prohibited	ОК
Tam McArthur Rim	4078	Summer/Fall	\$	2.6	6500-7210	Moderate- Difficult	ОК	ОК	Prohibited
Trout Creek Butte	4064	Summer/Fall	N/A	1.8	4800-5550	Easy			ОК
Troute Creek Tie	4067	Summer/Fall	\$	0.9	4900	Moderate	Ok	Ok	Prohibited
Two Lakes	4032	Summer/Fall	N/A	1.5	3620	Moderate	Ok	Ok	ОК
West Metolius River	4018	Spring/	N/A	9.0	3000	Easy	Ok	Prohibited	Prohibited

\* \$ = Trail Park Pass or Deschutes National Forest Pass required at Trailhead







# **BLACK BUTTE**

### CHARACTERISTICS:

Length: 4.0 Miles Round trip Elevation High: 6,440 Elevation Low: 4,800 Difficulty: More Difficult Setting: Forest Season: All Restrictions: No motorized vehicles

Northwest Forest Pass required.

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The trail climbs steeply for two miles up this symmetrical volcano. The trail leads through a rich diversity of forest settings. Large "yellow belly" ponderosa pine trees give way to mixed conifer and then subalpine vegetation. In the second mile of the hike, trees thin and unsurpassed mountain views emerge. The openness of the upper portion of the trail can make for a very hot climb in the summer.

#### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Black Butte is the site of several generations of Forest Service fire lookouts and has, therefore, played an important role in protecting Central Oregon forests for over 80 years. In 1910, lookouts worked from a platform perched in a pair of trees. The Cupola was built in 1922 and served as the primary lookout facility until 1934. Then the 83 foot tower was completed. Builders estimated it would require 300 pack loads of material to construct the tower - it actually took over 1,000 loads.

Recently, the Cupola structure has been resurrected. In 1990, the tower was condemned and plans were started for a new lookout tower. The Cupola is currently staffed full-time from June through October.

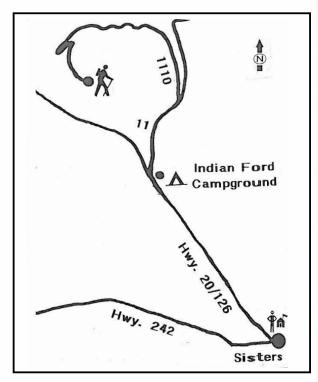


#### COMMENTS:

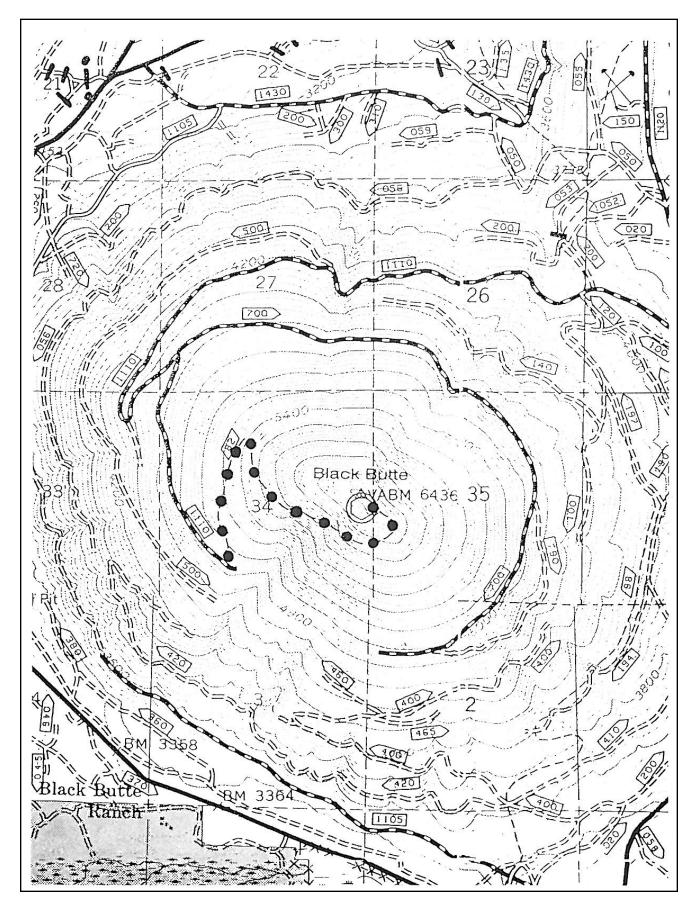
No water is available, either along the trail or at the summit. Please be sure to pack a supply for your hike. Day-Use Northwest Forest Pass is available at the trailhead. Public toilets are available for use at the trailhead. There are no public toilets on the summit or along the trail.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 6 miles. Turn right onto Road 11, the Green Ridge Road, at Indian Ford Campground; Follow Road 11 for 4 miles to the "Black Butte Trailhead" sign. A left turn onto Road 1110 will lead 4 miles to the trailhead.



# **BLACK BUTTE**



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# **BLACK CRATER**

Length: 7.6 miles roudntrip Elevation High: 7,251 Elevation Low: 4,900 Difficulty: More Difficult Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required.

#### DESCRIPTION:

From the trailhead, located near Windy Point on McKenzie Highway 242, the trail begins by climbing steeply. The pitch moderates slightly as the trail continues through thick forest stands of mountain hemlock on the north side of the crater. The upper section of the trail gradually emerges onto open pumice slopes. The summit, 7251 feet, is a rocky outcrop which used to house a fire lookout and offers hikers outstanding views of the North Sister, Mount Washington, and the McKenzie Pass lava flows. The panorama extends west over Central Oregon to Prineville, and as far north as Mount Adams.

Black Crater is nearly in the center of the High Cascades volcanic chain, which extends from Lassen Peak on the south to Mt. Baker in the north. Volcanic activity in this chain started nearly 3 million years ago. Most of the highest peaks visible from Black Crater are less than 70,000 years old, but eruptions have continued into modern times: there have been at least 30 in the last 150 years.

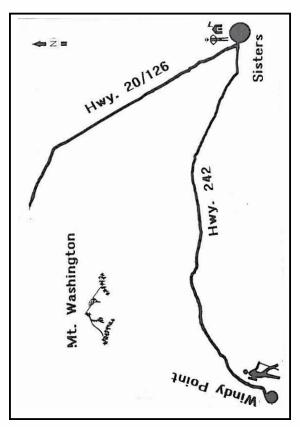
The trail enters the Three Sisters Wilderness shortly after leaving the trailhead. Permits are required for both day-use and overnight travel in the Wilderness. Dayuse permits are available at the trailhead, overnight permits must be obtained from a Forest Service office or commercial outlet. Bring plenty of liquids to drink because no water is available on the trail. Restrooms are available at the trailhead.

### COMMENTS:

No water is available on the trail. This hike should be done early in the day due to hot temperatures in the afternoon.

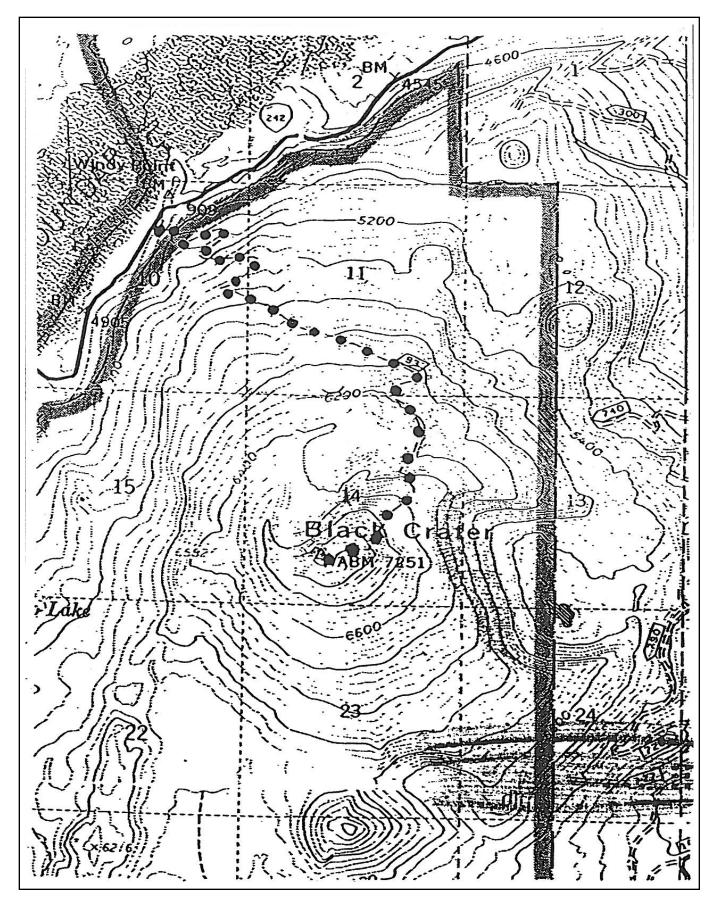
#### **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Drive west 11.5 miles from Sisters on the McKenzie Hwy 242. Watch for the Black Crater sign. The trailhead is on the left just past Windy Point. The parking area is on the left side of the road.





# **BLACK CRATER**



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TRAIL GUIDE



# **BUTTE LOOPS TRAIL**

Length: 11 and 13 miles Elevation High: 4600ft Elevation Low: 3320ft Difficulty: Difficult Setting: Forest Season: Spring through fall Restrictions: No motorized vehicles or ATVs

#### Northwest Forest Pass Required:

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

**Lower Butte Loop:** This trail offers a 11 mile loop opportunity while connecting with the other trail segments in the vicinity. The trail is located on the south and west sides of Black Butte and follows a mixture of logging roads and single track with irregular surfaces. As you travel the south and west portions you will see towering "yellow belly" ponderosa pines and Douglas fir trees.

**Upper Butte Loop:** This portion of trail is accessible from the lower loop and provides a challenging 13 mile ride around Black Butte. The trail travels through old growth ponderosa pine and mixed conifer as it circles the butte. When you approach the west and northwest sides, the ponderosa will give way to mixed conifer and sub-alpine vegetation. Occasional openings in the forest canopy will provide spectacular view of the Cascades.

#### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

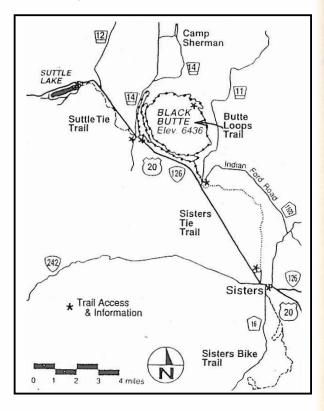
Most of the trails you will be riding on in the Black Butte area are part of a Roads to Trails Program. Portions of abandoned roads have been designated as trails and are being managed as part of our trail system.

## COMMENTS:

Bring plenty of liquids to drink because there is no water along the trail. The closest restroom facilities are located at Indian Ford Campground. Use caution when approaching and crossing roads in the area.

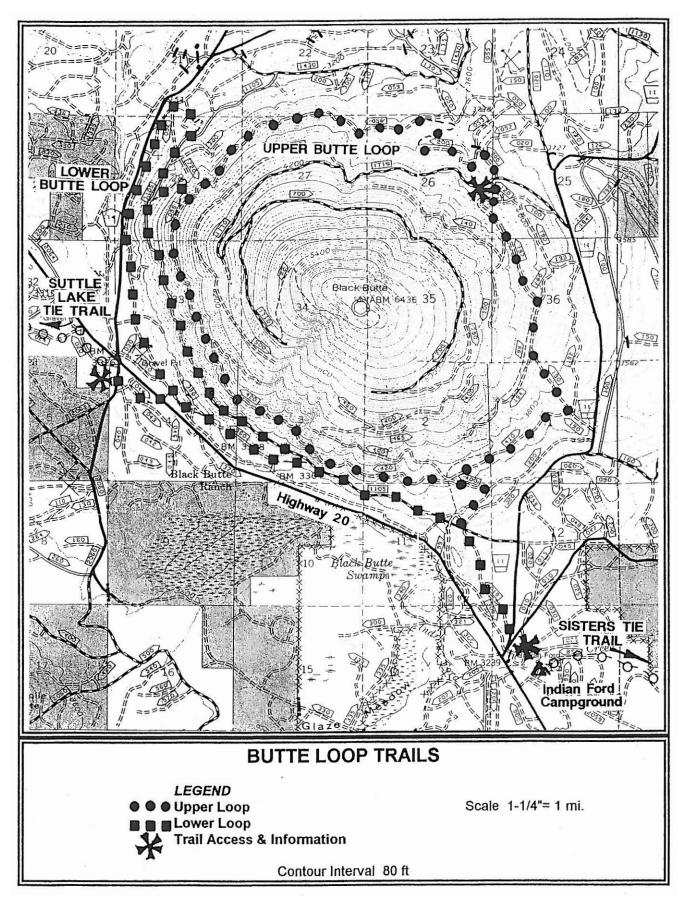
## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 6 miles. Then turn right onto Forest Road 11 and continue 4 miles to the "Black Butte Trailhead" sign. Turn left onto Forest Road 1110 and proceed for just over a half mile to a small parking area on the left side of the road.





# **BUTTE LOOPS TRAIL**



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# **CANYON CREEK MEADOWS**

Length: 4 miles round trip Elevation High: 5,600 Elevation Low: 5,120 Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest Season: Spring-fall

Northwest Forest Pass required. Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

The first mile of the hike traverses a stand of snags from the 2003 forest fire. To limit the number of people you meet start the loop clockwise. Bear left at the junction 0.3 miles from the Jack Lake campground parking area to start the loop. The gradual climb passes two ponds and then descends to the lower meadow.

For more energetic climbers continue 0.7 miles up the trail to the rim of the upper meadow. From there the 0.8 mile route to the viewpoint becomes less distinct. Climb south up the steep terrain - then follow the path up a steep and windy crest. The view will stretch from Mt. Jefferson to the Three Sisters.

To return to the loop, hike back to the bottom of the lower meadow and turn left. Follow Canyon Creek, then join the trail from Wasco Lake.

\*\*Before returning to your car, listen for the sound of waterfalls and find your way to a footbridge above the first of Canyon Creek Falls.

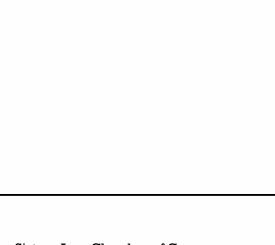
## COMMENTS:

The trailhead is on the right side of Jack Lake. After 1/4 Mile there is a junction, follow the left fork to Canyon

Creek Meadows. There is a view of Three Finger Jack from the meadow. This meadow is a well known wildflower sanctuary. Please stay on the path and do not pick the flowers.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

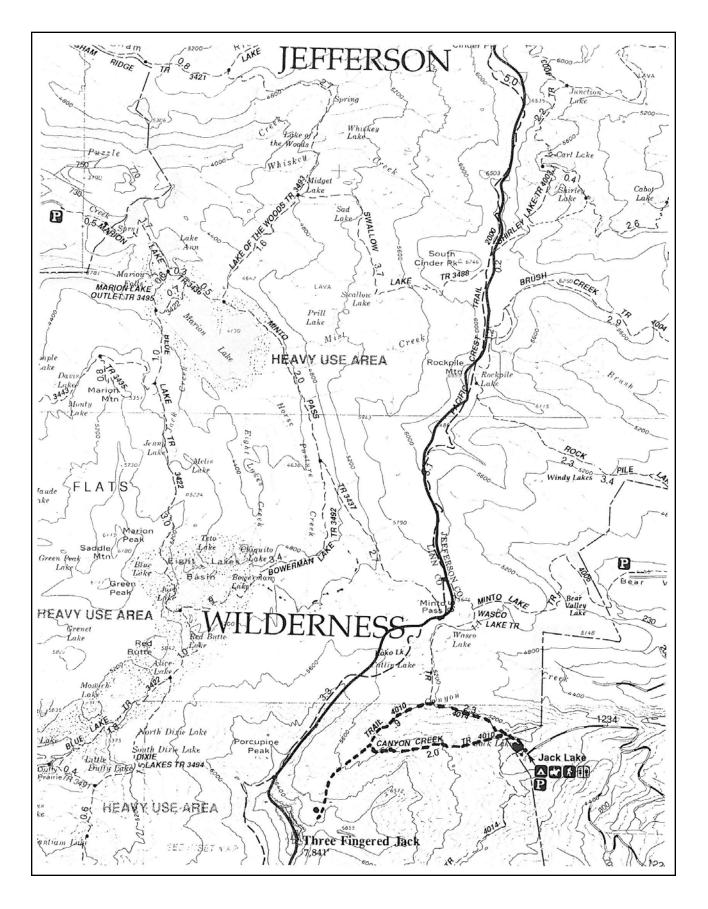
Proceed west on Hwy 20 approximately 13 miles. Turn right on paved road 12 (Jack lake). Follow it for 5 miles to Road 1230. Go left on road 1230 and follow it to Road 1234. Go left on Road 1234 and follow it to Jack lake (follow signs to Jack Lake).





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# **CANYON CREEK MEADOWS**



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TRAIL GUIDE



# **CHUSH FALLS**

Length: 2-3 Miles Round Trip Elevation High: 5200 Elevation Low: 4800 Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest Season: Spring through fall Restrictions: no motorized vehicles

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

With the exception of two short, steep hills, the trail climbs a moderate slope for its duration. It traverses a pine forest and offers excellent opportunities to see the many different types of wildlife and native vegetation in the area. The maintained trail parallels the east side of Whychus Creek and ends at an overlook above the falls. The Cascades, another falls site, can be reached by continuing for another 1/2 mile beyond the overlook. No trail exists between the Falls and the Cascades, but it is relatively easy to navigate the cross-country portion if you keep the creek in your sight.

## SPECIAL INTERESTS:

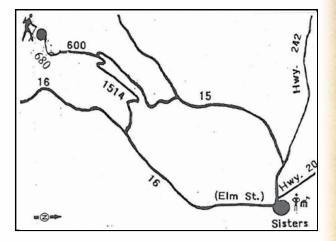
The cycle of rain and snow makes Chush Falls an ever changing attraction. The water flowing over the rocks comes from melting snow and glaciers on Broken Top and South Sister; causing the size of the falls to vary greatly with the time of year and even the time of day. From March to June alone the flow can increase by more than 6 times.

#### COMMENTS:

Wilderness permits are required on this trail and are self-issuing at the trailhead. No potable water or restroom facilties are available on the trail.

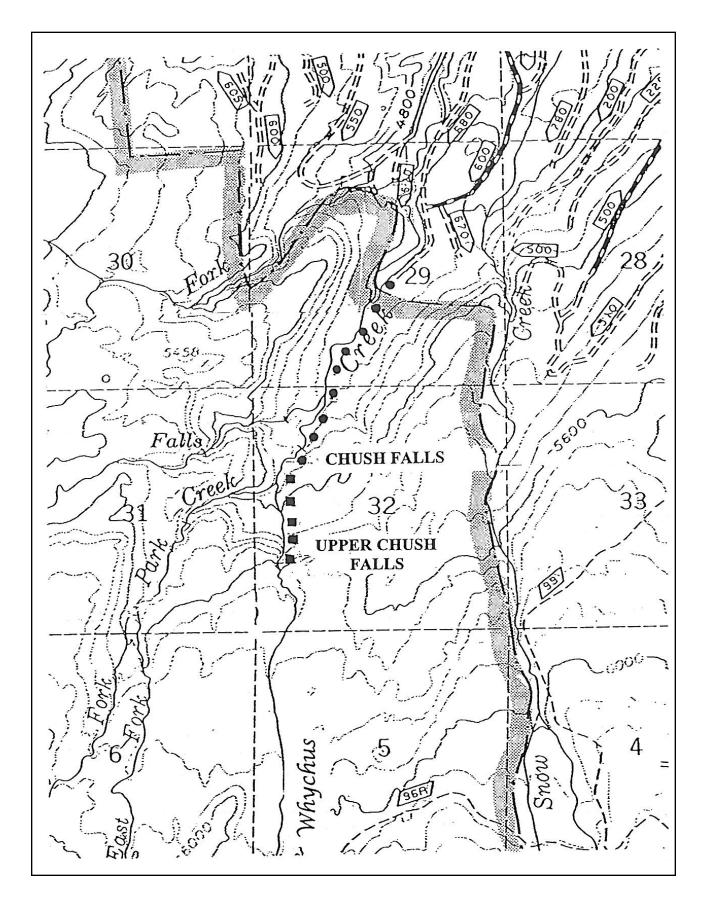
## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Take road 16, Elm Street in Sisters, south for 7 miles. Turn right on road 1514 and continue for 4.8 miles to road 600. Follow road 600 for 2 miles then turn left on Road 680 follow for .3 miles.





# **CHUSH FALLS**









# EAGLE ROCK LOOP

Length: 5.5 miles Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest

# **PETERSON RIDGE LOOP**

Length: Approximately 25 miles Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest

#### COMMENTS:

The trail consists of a short and long loop that are marked with brown and white bike path signs. It crosses a number of dirt roads, so it is important that users pay close attention to the trail markers to avoid confusion. Some of these roads are still in use; please use caution when crossing them.

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The first 1/4 mile off the pavement winds through uneven terrain with some rocky areas. The terrain levels as the trail proceeds through an area of thinned trees that provides some good opportunities to observe wildlife. After 1.7 miles, the trail crosses a small wooden bridge. This is where the loop itself intersects. You may proceed either direction, but the remainder of the trail description follows the right fork.

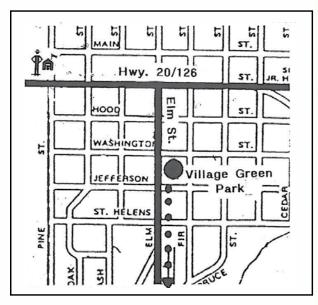
The area surrounding this section of the trail is very open and manzanita bushes grow along the trail At 2.05 miles the trail goes left and parallels Whychus Creek canal. The short and long loop intersection is at approximately 2.65 miles where the trail crosses Whychus Creek. Continue left to complete the short loop and return to Sisters.

## DIRECTIONS:

The Peterson Ridge Trail system is a popular destination for mountain bikers, hikers and trail runners. To reach the main trailhead, go south from Village Green Park in Sisters on S. Elm St for 0.3 miles then turn left onto Tyee Dr. The trailhead is on the immediate right.

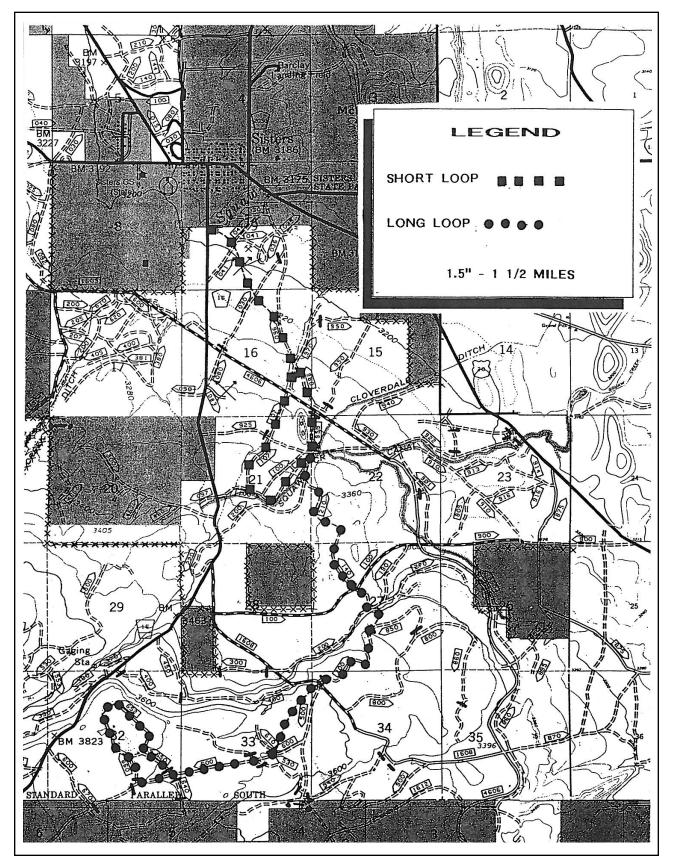
#### DESCRIPTION:

This loop corresponds directly with the first 2.5 miles of the Eagle Rock Loop until you reach the Whychus Creek Canal Bridge. Cross the bridge and follow the trail along the south side of the canal. Watch for intersection rock formations and old growth juniper in the next mile of trail. As the trail starts to climb, mountain views open to the west. It is approximately 3 miles further to the loop intersection. The loop may be traveled in either direction.





# EAGLE ROCK LOOP PETERSON RIDGE LOOP







# **GREEN RIDGE TRAIL**

Length: 10 mile loop Elevation High: 4600 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest

## COMMENTS:

Because this is an active fire lookout, staffed by volunteers from the local community, it is not available for public use during the months of July, August and early September.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed 5.5 miles west on Hwy 20 to FS Road 11 (Green Ridge Road). Turn right on Road 11 and travel on the paved road for 10 miles to the end of the pavement and the junction of the Road 1150. Take the left fork Road 1150 and travel 6 miles to the junction of Road 1154. Turn left on Road 1140 and travel a short distance 0.2 miles to the junction of road 600. Turn right on Road 600 and travel about one mile to the junction of road 650 and the gate on the right.

#### Trail Permit Required

## DESCRIPTION:

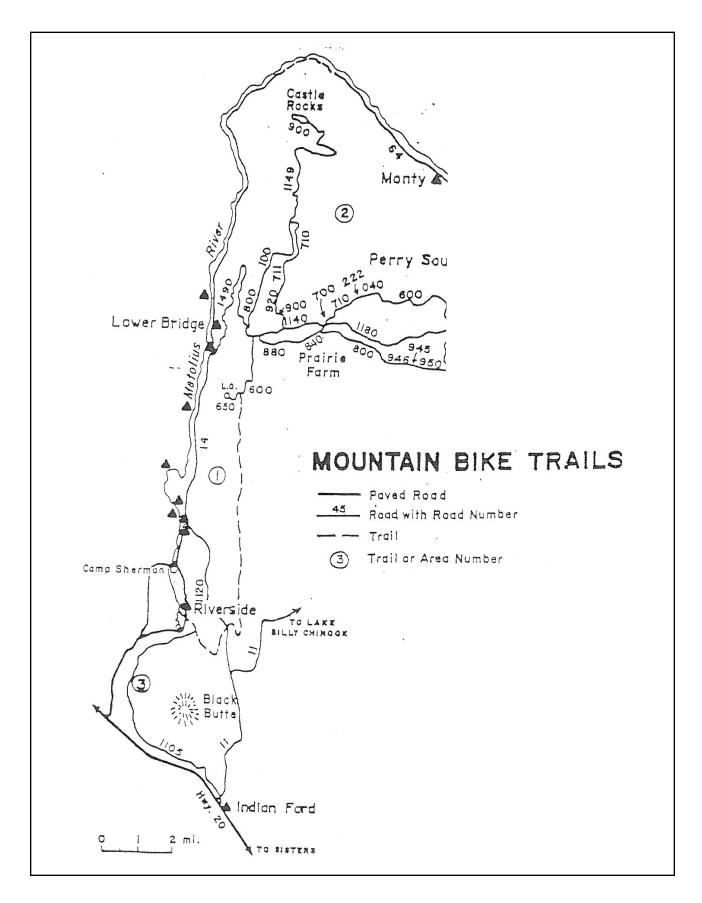
This loop begins near Riverside Campground on the upper Metolius River where the trail heads east off of Road 1120. From 1120 follow the yellow trail markers northward onto Green Ridge where you can enjoy great views of the Metolius River valley and peaks of the Cascades to the west. Continue on the trail until you encounter Road 650 near the Green Ridge Lookout. (1/4 mile Side trip: A left turn here will take you to the fire lookout). This is the end of the trail section of the loop. Continue east on Road 600, then north on Road 1140. Go west at the junction with Road 1490, which leads back down into the Metolius Basin. To complete the loop go south at the junction with Road 14 and continue back to your starting point.

## SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Situated along the edge of Green Ridge and more than 2,000' above the Metolius River, this 20 foot tall circa 1960 fire lookout offers unmatched views of Mt. Jefferson and the Metolius River Basin. The lookout has a 14 x 14 RG type cab equipped with basic necessities. A primitive vault toilet is located above the parking lot.



# **GREEN RIDGE TRAIL**





# HEAD OF JACK CREEK

The springs that feed Jack Creek come out of the

ground in this area. Around the springs and creek is lush forest with many types of trees, shrubs, and moss.

Please stay on the trail to protect sensitive vegetation.

Length: 1/4 Mile Loop Elevation High: 3200 Difficulty: Easy Setting: River Season: All

**DESCRIPTION:** 

COMMENTS:

Northwest Forest Pass required

**DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:** 

# -T. KK

# **HEAD OF THE METOLIUS**

Length: 1/2 mile round trip Elevation High: 3,000 Difficulty: Easy Setting: River Season: All

## **DESCRIPTION:**

This is an easy walk to a viewpoint of the headwaters of the Metolius River. The view of Mt. Jefferson from this point is spectacular.

# DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:

Proceed west on Hwy 20 approximately 9.5 miles to the Metolius/Camp Sherman junction. Turn right on Road 14. After about 3 miles there will be another junction; turn right and continue 1.5 miles to the Head of the Metolius parking area.

#### Proceed west on Hwy 20 approximately 13 miles. Turn right on paved Road 12 (Jack Lake). Follow it for 5 miles to the end of the pavement and turn left on Road 1230. Cross the bridge and turn left. Continue past Jack Creek Campground on roads 1232 and 400 to the parking lot at the Head of Jack Creek.







# **IRON MOUNTAIN**

Length: 3 miles round trip Elevation High: 5,455 Elevation Low: 4,100 Difficulty: More Difficult Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

#### Northwest Forest Pass required.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

This is one of the best known places in the Cascades for wildflowers. Please leave them for others to enjoy. Three hundred species of plant life are documented on Iron Mountain. The trail starts on the south side of the highway, crosses it and then continues through old growth Douglas fir. On the upper half of the mountain the trail winds through open meadows and lava outcroppings.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west out of Sisters and continue over Santiam Pass. Stay left on Hwy 20/126 at the junction with Hwy 22. After 2.5 miles, stay to the right on Hwy 20 to Corvallis. From this junction, continue for about 8 miles on Hwy 20 until the summit of Tombstone Pass where you will see a sign indicating the summit and snopark. Continue another 0.6 miles to the Iron Mountain trailhead parking on the left.







Length: 4 miles round trip Elevation High: 3,600 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

Northwest Forest Pass required.

#### DESCRIPTION:

The hike through the forest winds through lava flows. Linton Falls are upstream from Linton lake and are difficult to reach.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Drive west from Sisters on the McKenzie Hwy 242 and continue 11.5 miles west of the McKenzie Pass summit to a large parking area on the left side of the road. The turn off is 0.2 miles past the 66 mile post and 100 yards below Alder Springs Campground.



# NORTH & SOUTH MATTHIEU LAKES

Length: 7 miles roundtrip Elevation High: 6,007 Elevation Low: 5,280 Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

The trail begins behind the registration board. After about 1/4 mile, at the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail, stay to the left. The next trail junction, 1 mile further, is the fork to the North and South Matthieu Lakes. The trail to the left goes up the ridge and directly to the South Matthieu Lake. From the South Matthieu Lake, head down to North Matthieu Lake for your return trip.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west on the McKenzie Hwy 242 for about 14.5 miles. Watch for signs to Lava Camp Lake and Pacific Crest Trail. Turn left and continue south on this road for about 1/2 mile to a sign pointing right to the Pacific Crest Trail parking area and trailhead.





# LITTLE BELKNAP CRATER

Length: 6 miles round trip Elevation High: 6,305 Elevation Low: 5,300 Difficulty: More Difficult Setting: Other Season: Spring-Fall

## DESCRIPTION:

Follow the trail for 2.5 miles. The Little Belknap Crater veers to the right off the main trail and follows a ridge which leads to the crater. For a picnic site, follow the main trail 1/4 mile north from the Little Belknap junction to the base of Belknap Crater.

## COMMENTS:

Due to unusually rough lava surface, hiking boots are recommended. Do not bring dogs on this hike; the sharp lava can cut their feet.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Drive west from Sisters on the McKenzie Hwy 242 approximately 15.5 miles to a small parking lot located at 0.5 miles after the Dee Wright Observatory on the right side of the road.



# TENAS AND BENSON LAKES

 Length: Benson Lake is 3 miles round trip; Tenas Lake is 5 miles round trip; Scott Mountain is 8 miles round trip
Elevation High: 6,116
Elevation Low: 4,800
Difficulty: Moderate
Setting: Forest
Season: Spring-Fall

#### Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

The trail starts to the left of the bulletin board. Benson Lake is 1.5 miles for the trailhead on the left side of the trail. Tenas Lakes are 1 mile from the Benson Lake Cutoff. Tenas Lakes are a series of 7-8 small lakes. Scott Mountain is reached by staying on the main trail instead of going left to Tenas Lakes. The top of the mountain is 1.25 miles from the trail junction.

#### **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west on Hwy 242. Go 6 miles past the McKenzie Pass Summit. On Road 260 drive one mile to the trailhead at the end of Scott Lake.





TRAIL GUIDE



# **McKENZIE RIVER TRAIL**

Length: The trail parallels Hwy 126 and the McKenzie River for 27 miles down to 1.5 miles east of McKenzie Bridge Elevation High: 3,150 Elevation Low: 1,450 Difficulty: Easy Setting: River Season: All

#### Northwest Forest Pass required depending on parking location

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Small portions of this trail may be accessed from various points on Hwy 126. If possible, it is better to use two cars for longer routes. Park one car at the end of the hike to be used to shuttle back to a car parked at the trailhead. The trail travels through a variety of environments from lava beds to mossy forest, providing opportunities for photography, fishing, viewing wildlife, and enjoying the McKenzie River. Abundant wildflowers can be found from Buck Bridge to Trail Bridge Dam. Sahalie Falls and Koosah Falls are located on the trail midway between Clear Lake and Carmen Reservoir, the trail pases by the Paradise Trail Bridge, and Coldwater Campgrounds where water is usually available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. More information on this trail, as well as a map of the area can be obtained from the McKenzie Ranger Station. McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413, or call 541.822.3381.

**DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:** 

Proceed west on Hwy 20 over the Santiam Pass and stay left at the junction with Hwy 22, after 2.5 miles, take the left fork onto Hwy 126 when Hwy 20 splits to the right. The beginning of the trail is at the Old Santiam Wagon Road on the south side of Hwy 126, across from the west end of Fish Lake.







# **METOLIUS RIVER TRAIL**

Length: 0-10 Miles or 6.5 mile loop Elevation High: 2900 Elevation Low: 2800 Difficulty: Easy Setting: River/Forest Season: All

## COMMENTS:

Restroom facilities and water are available at Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery. The trail leaves the river near some private property downstream from the fish hatchery. Please respect the property owner's privacy and stay outside the fencelines.

## DESCRIPTION:

Hiking trails run both north (downstream) or south (upstream) along the Metolius from Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery. Any distance from 0-10 miles may be hiked by following the same trail out and back. A hike upstream along the west bank leads to the confluence of Canyon Creek (2.5 miles). The beautiful springs that flows into the Metolius just downstream of Lower Canyon Creek Campground is a spectacular sight.

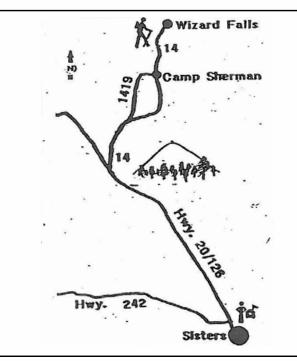
From the Hatchery a 6.5 mile loop can be accomplished by hiking downstream to Lower Bridge, crossing the river, and returning on the opposite bank. This loop offers a combination of riverside and forest settings. Osprey nests and beaver dam may be seen along the way.

## SPECIAL INTERESTS:

The first users of forest trails along the river were Indians. It was they who gave the river its name -Metolius. Some say the name means "white fish", others say it means "stinking water" or "spawning Salmon". In any case, the name of the river makes reference to its outstanding fishery. Salmon from the Pacific Ocean spawned in the Metolius and its tributaries before dams obstructed their path. The river is now host to rainbow, brook, brown, and bull trout; whitefish and kokanee.

### **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 10 miles and turn right at the sign for Camp Sherman (Road 14) . Proceed on Road 14 for 7 miles past the "Head of the Metolius". Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery will be a left turn off of Road 14.









# **PARK MEADOWS**

Length: 7.6 miles round trip Elevation: 700' gain Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required

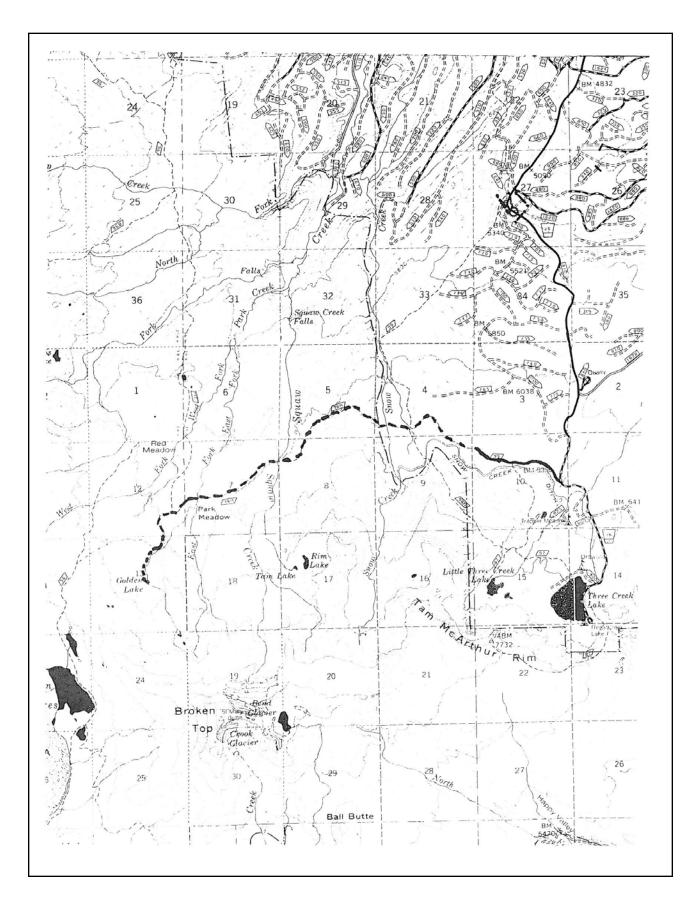
#### **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

From Sisters turn south on Elm St. which becomes Rd. 16, head toward Three Creeks. Drive 14.3 miles to the Park Meadows Trailhead sign on Rd. 16. You can park here and walk the 1.2 miles on a rough and narrow dirt road. You may also drive the 1.2 miles, but this is not a maintained road.

You will walk about 1 mile to the wilderness boundary and Snow Creek. Remember this is all downhill going in, so uphill coming back. Stay on the trail for another 1.5 miles to Wychus Creek. About 1 mile further the trail will open up into the meadows where you get your first views of the mountains. Park Meadow is a very large meadow with wildflowers in the early and late summer. Please do not graze the horses or camp in the meadow. This trail will go on to Golden Lake and Green Lakes.



# **PARK MEADOWS**





# **PATJENS LAKES**

Length: 5.5 mile loop Elevation High: 4,644 Elevation Low: 4,360 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

Restrooms

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Look for a small sign indicating the beginning of the Patjens Lakes Loop. The trail starts 1/4 mile before the turnaround at the end of the road, adjacent to the restrooms. Two of the three Patjens Lakes have open shores and beaches offering good picnic sites.

# DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:

Proceed west on Hwy 20 to Hoodoo Ski Area. Follow the Hoodoo road about 1 mile and turn left onto Big Lake Road 2690 to the far end of the lake and park at the turnaround at the end of the road.







TRAIL GUIDE



# **PROXY** FALLS

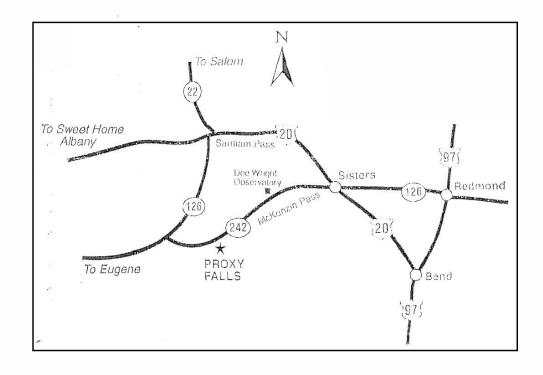
Length: 1 mile round trip Elevation High: 3,120 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:** 

Proceed west to McKenzie Hwy 242 for about 25 miles. Parking is on the south side of the road about 2 miles below Alder Springs. There is a very small trail sign nestled in the forest.

## DESCRIPTION:

There are two falls – upper and lower. Upper Proxy Falls is to the left; Lower Proxy Falls is to the right. At Upper Proxy Falls water drops about 200 feet into a pool, then disappears underground.

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required



SISTERS Bountary







# SISTERS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL (MTB)

Length: ? miles Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest

#### **GREEN RIDGE/METOLIUS LOOP**

This loop can begin from any of the campgrounds along the Metolius River or non-campers may want to park where the trail heads east from Road 1120. From 1120 follo the yeallo trail markers up Green Ridge until you encounter Road 650 near the Green Ridge Lookout. A left turn here will take you to the lookout and a spectacular view of the Metolius Basin (1/4 mile side trip). To continue the loop come back up Road 650 and continue east on Road 600 then north on Road 1140. At the junction with Road 1490, go west. Road 1490 will take you down into the Metolius Basin. At the junction with Road 14 go south until you encounter Road 1120 heading east. Ina bout 4 miles you will have completed the loop. This route is rated "More Difficult". Be sure and take drinking water.

#### CASTLE ROCKS/GUNSIGHT PASS

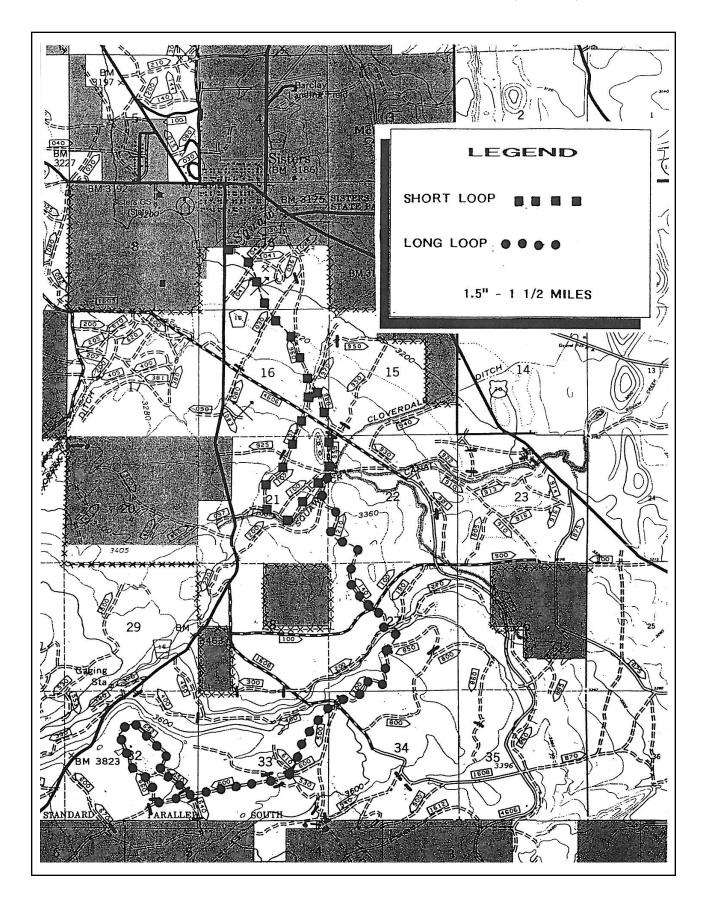
This area offers a number of opportunities alloing for rides of various lengths and difficulty. Prairie Farm is a good starting point and a nice camping spot; however, there is no drinking water nor camping facilities. The ride to Castle Roacks is rated as "More Difficult" and the ride to the east down Road 880 ranges from "More" to "Most Difficult". Use the map and the road numbers to pick your route.

#### **BLACK BUTTE**

Road 1105 offers a scenic ride connecting Indian Ford Campground and Riverside Campground. A loop can be made by using Highway 20 or 11 and 1120. This route is rated "More Difficult."



# SISTERS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL (MTB)







# **SKYLIGHT CAVE**

Length: 900 feet Elevation High: 4,300 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: All

## COMMENTS:

Visitors to the Skylight Cave should dress warm (cave temp 40 degrees), bring at least two reliable lights and exercise caution while exploring the cave as the lava surface is quite rough and could cause cuts abrasions. It is also recommended that you tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Skylight Cave is a lava tube which was created when molten lava flowing from a fissure cooled on the outside while molten lava continued to flow in the center leaving a hollow tube. To better visualize this, imagine a river freezing over hard on the surface, then the water flow is cutoff. The water left in the channel continues flowing downstream to the advancing front, leaving a sheet of ice with nothing under it.

The cave is entered by going down a ladder in an opening where the roof had collapsed. When you get to the bottom of the ladder you may go to the right or to the left (as you face the ladder). To the right the roof of the cave is low, but in a short distance the cave opens up to a fairly large room, with about a 25 foot ceiling. It is here that one can see how the cave got its name. There are some openings in the roof where light filters through allowing one to see the walls and floor of the cave quite well. The cave continues only a short distance from this area.

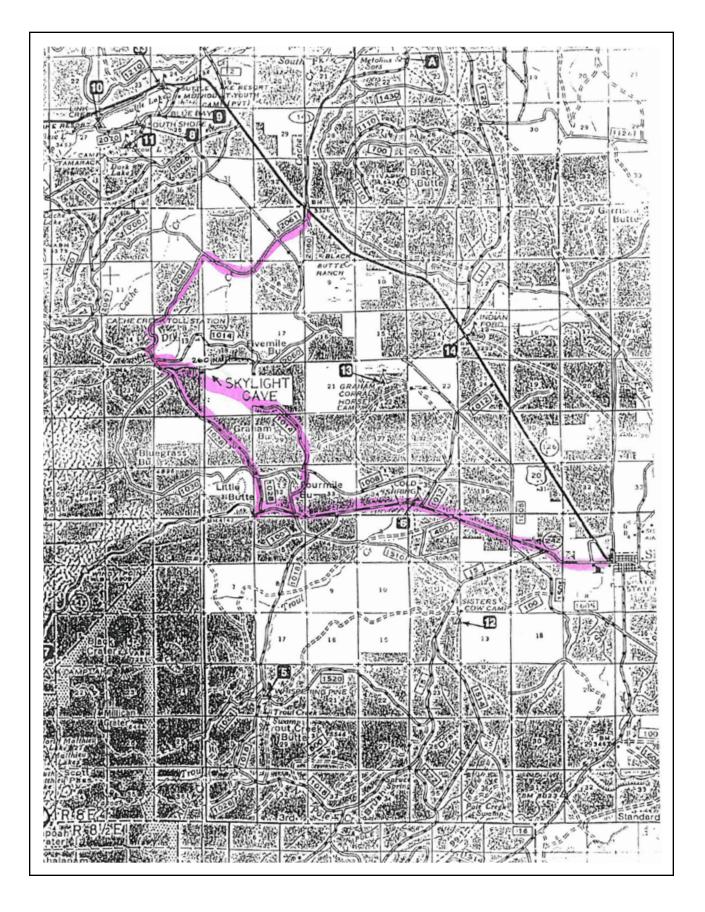
To the left of the ladder the cave has a gentle downhill slope. In this direction the cave has varying roof height, from about 6.5 ft - to 3ft, which means one should be very careful to avoid head injuries.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Skylight Cave may be reached from Hwy 20/126 by turning onto forest road 2061 (across from the Camp Sherman turnoff) and follow it about 5.5 miles to forest road 1028. Turn left on forest road 1028 and follow it about 1 mile to forest road 260. Turn left on forest road 260 and follow it about 1 miles where you'll find the entrance to the cave on the right side of the road. Watch for a very small road marker on the left indicating Road 266; the cave is near this road.



# **SKYLIGHT CAVE**



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SISTERS RANGER DISTRICT TRAIL GUIDE **TRAIL #4092** 

# SISTERS TIE TRAIL

#### CHARACTERISTICS:

Length: 6.6 miles Time Required: 2-3 hours round trip. (bike) Elevation High: 3239 ft. Elevation Low: 3186 ft. Difficulty: More Difficult. Setting: Ponderosa Forest Season: Spring through Fall Restrictions: NO Motorized vehicles or ATVs

### DESCRIPTION:

Sisters Tie: This trail starts just north of the Sisters Ranger Station and meanders to the north west on a series of old roads and single track to Indian Ford Campground. Portions of the tread are soft and make for a more difficult bike ride. The vegetation along most of the trail consists of second growth ponderosa pine and juniper in the overstory, with bitterbrush in the understory. During the winter and fall you can expect to see deer moving between water sources along Indian Ford Creek and the forested areas where they browse on the grasses and forbs. You will see Black Butte through occasional openings in the forest canopy. This trail connects to the trails in the Black Butte area and eventually links to the Suttle Lake.

#### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

This traif connects to the Butte Loops in the Black Butte area. Most of the trails you will be riding on in the Black Butte area are part of a Roads to Trails Program. Portions of abandoned roads have been designated as trails and are being managed as part of our trail system.

## COMMENTS:

Bring plenty of liquids to drink because there is NO WATER along the trail. The closest restroom facilities are located at Indian Ford Campground. Use caution when approaching and crossing roads in the area.

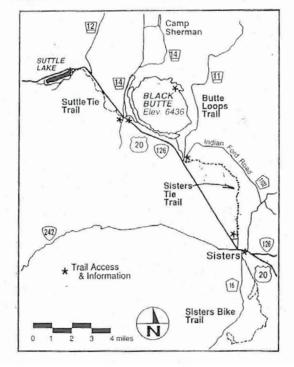


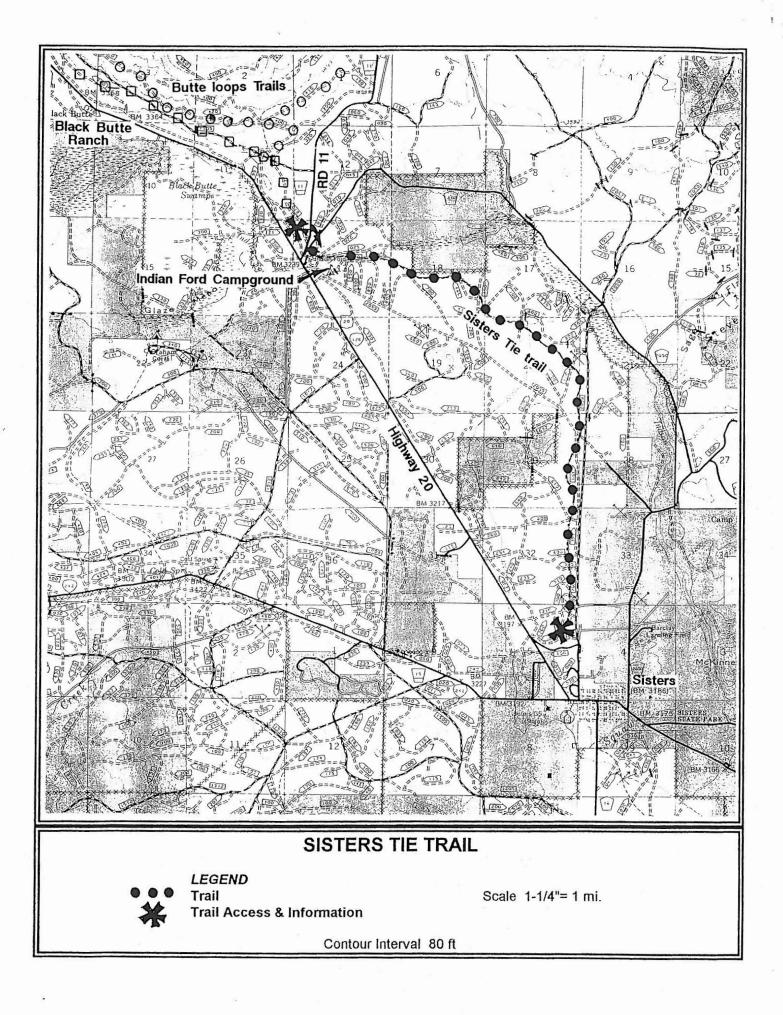
#### TRAIL ACCESS:

SISTERS RANGER STATION, Located on the west end of Sisters. To access the trail from Highway 20 turn north on Pine Street, next to the ranger station, and proceed 1/2 mile. There is a small parking area just past the end of the pavement on the left side of the road.

INDIAN FORD CAMPGROUND: Proceed west from Sisters on Highway 20 for 6 miles, then turn right onto Forest Road 11, at Indian Ford Campground. The trail crosses the road 100 feet north of the intersection. There is limited parking near the entrance to the campground.

#### VICINITY MAP









# **SMITH ROCK STATE PARK**

Length: 6 miles to Monkey Face Elevation High: 2,900 Elevation Low: 2,660 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Other Season: All

Self-issued State Park Permit required Water Available Restrooms

## DESCRIPTION:

Smith Rock is a world renowned Rock Climbing Area. The best time of the year for visiting this area is in the fall or spring because of the moderate temperatures and rattlesnakes common to the area are less active. **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:** 

Drive through Sisters and continue on Hwy 126 to Redmond. After reaching Redmond, turn left on Hwy 97 and continue 6 miles to Terrebonne. Follow the signs to Smith Rock State Park. Walk to the north end of the picnic area. Follow the path down to a footbridge that crosses the Crooked River. After crossing the bridge, follow the trail to the left to Monkey Face. Return on the same trail. You can also go right after the bridge for other interesting hikes.





TRAIL GUIDE

A 1

# **SQUARE LAKE AND BOOTH LAKE**

Length: Square Lake 5 miles; Booth Lake 8 miles Round trip Elevation High: 5100 Elevation Low: 4760 Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest Season: Spring to Fall

#### Free self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Walk 100 yards to the Pacific Crest Trail; turn left and proceed uphill. At the next trail junction (about 1/2 mile from the beginning) turn right and proceed to Square Lake. Follow the trail to the north, uphill to Booth Lake. Booth Lake is 1.5 miles from Square Lake.

COMMENTS:

Much of this area burned in the 2003 B & B Wildfire. Be aware of dead trees and the hazards they present, especially if it is windy, trees can snap.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west on Hwy 20 from Sisters approximately 20 miles. Approximately 1 mile before Hoodoo Ski Area, turn right at the sign directing hikers to the access to the Pacific Crest Trail. Travel 0.3 miles to a turnaround and parking area. The trailhead is at the northeast edge of the turnaround identified by a Pacific Crest Trail Sign.







# SUTTLE LAKE SHORELINE TRAIL

Length: 3.2 miles around the loop Elevation High: 3500 Elevation Low: 3450 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Lake Season: All

*Northwest Forest Pass required* Water Available Restrooms

## DESCRIPTION:

The minimal elevation changes on this trail makes it an ideal hike for people of all ages and fitness levels. The trail follows the wooded shoreline of the lake and provides many opportunities for fishing or picnicking along the way. On summer days it is possible to watch a variety of water sports including waterskiing and windsurfing from the shore. The trail passes through all developed recreation areas on the lake, making it easily accessible from any point.

## SPECIAL INTERESTS:

As you look around the forested area surrounding Suttle Lake you will see some trees that are healthy and others that appear to be dying. The healthy trees with the long green needles are pines. The affected trees are comprised of true firs and Douglas firs that were being defoliated by an infestation of Western Spruce Budworm. This area is part of nearly 150,000 acres on the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests that was affected by the outbreak. These insects are a natural part of the environment, but reached epidemic levels due to drought, natural fire exclusion, and selective logging practices. Forest Service scientists have been closely monitoring this epidemic. In the spring of 1993, the budworm population dropped drastically. The 2003 B&B fire burned much of this area.

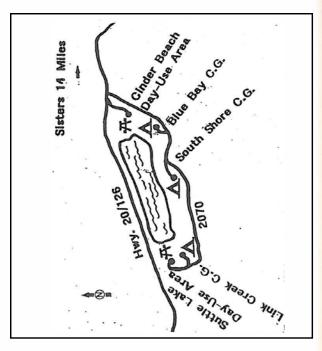


#### COMMENTS:

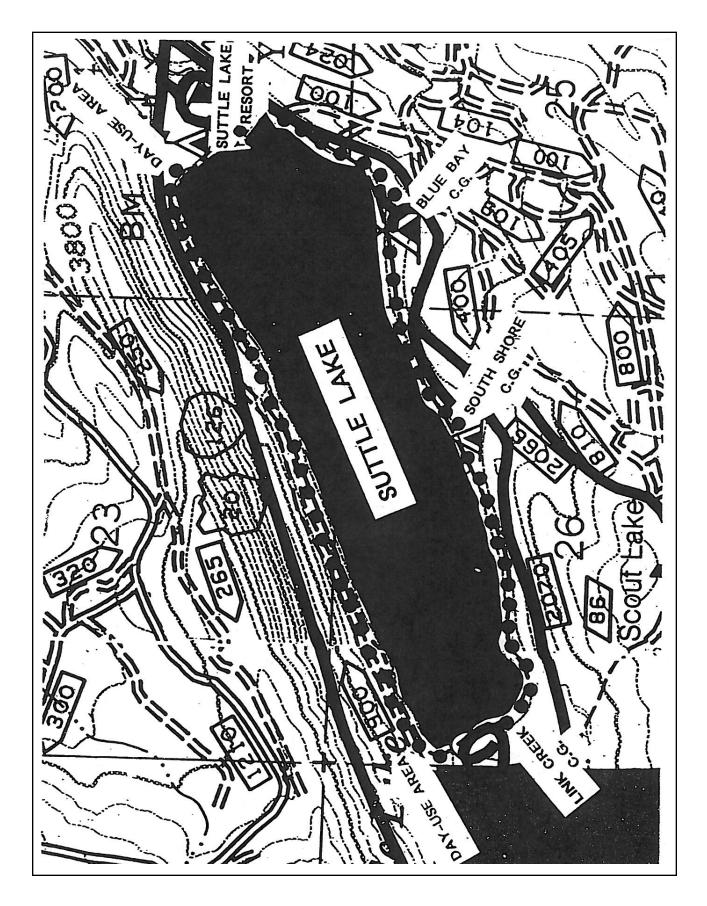
If you plan on fishing in the lake make sure you have an Oregon fishing license. These may be purchased at local sporting goods stores or at Suttle Lake Resort.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 14 miles to road 2070, the road to the Suttle Lake campgrounds. Follow Road 2070 for approximately 3 miles. The best place to access the trail is at the Suttle Lake Picnic Area just north of Link Creek Campground. The trail may also be accessed from any of the other established recreation areas on Road 2070 or from Cinder Beach Day Use Area near Suttle Lake Resort



# SUTTLE LAKE SHORELINE TRAIL





TRAIL GUIDE



# SUTTLE TIE TRAIL

Length: 5 miles Elevation High: 3438 Elevation Low: 3239 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall Restrictions: No motorized vehicles or ATVs

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 12 miles. Continue past the first exit into Suttle Lake and turn left at the Suttle Lake Resort sign. The trail starts near a small footbridge that crosses Lake Creek.

## DESCRIPTION:

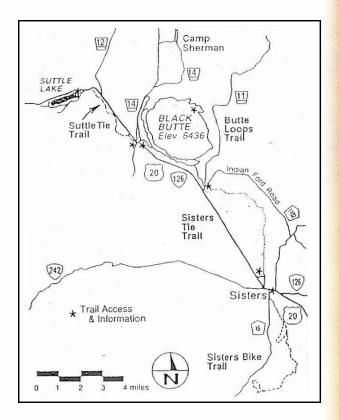
This trail can be started near Black Butte Ranch or at Suttle Lake. If starting at Suttle Lake you will travel through stands of Douglas fir and white fir as you proceed east. Within the first several miles you can expect the vegetation to change to a mix of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine with small patches of lodgepole pine. The terrain is gently rolling with the trail on a combination of old roads and single track. This trail connects to the trails in the Black Butte area and eventually travels into Sisters.

#### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Most of the trails you will be riding on in the Black Butte area are part of a Roads to Trails Program. Portions of abandoned roads have been designated as trails and are being managed as part of our trail system.

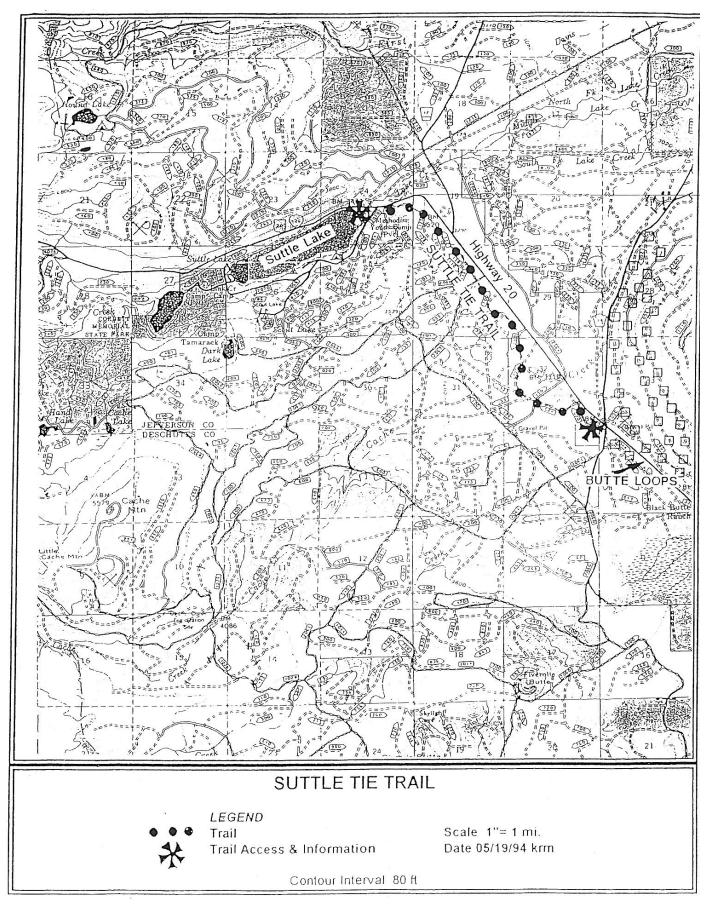
#### COMMENTS:

Bring plenty of liquids to drink because there is NO WATER along the trail. Use caution when approaching and crossing roads in the area.





# **SUTTLE TIE TRAIL**



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# TAM MCARTHUR RIM

Length: 4.5 miles round trip Elevation High: 7,732 Elevation Low: 6,600 Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

Northwest Forest Pass required Free self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required

## **DESCRIPTION:**

The trailhead is across the stream from the parking area by the main road. The trail starts in deep forest and becomes more open uphill. At the top of the rim the trail is not well-defined; the hiker is faced with very open country. Because of a lack of a well defined trail on the top of the rim, be sure to clearly identify the intersection of the trail and the rim. This will help ideintify the location of the trail for the hike back to the trailhead.

The first 0.2 miles of the trail is a steep climb and then levels out and is more of a moderate hike. The trails takes you to the base of Broken Top. Views of the Cascades and surrounding areas below are breathtaking. During the early summer months the meadows are full of wildflowers. Please do not pick the wildflowers. Leave them for others to enjoy.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Turn south on Elm Street (Road 16) in the middle of Sisters. Follow the signs to Three Creeks Lake. The pavement ends after about 15 miles. Continue on the dirt road to Three Creeks Lake. Turn right at Driftwood Campground. Trailhead parking is just before the campground on the right.







# LITTLE THREE CREEKS LAKE

Length: 3 miles round trip Elevation High: 6,720 Elevation Low: 6,600 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest

Water Available Restrooms

## DESCRIPTION:

The trail begins at the end of the gravel road and campground area. Proceed up through the mountain meadows to Little Three Creeks Lake. Wildflowers are bountiful in season.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Turn south from Hwy 20 on Elm Street (Road 16) in the middle of Sisters. Follow the signs to Three Creeks Lake. After 15 miles the pavement ends. Continue on the road to Three Creeks Lake. Turn right at Driftwood Campground. Trailhead parking is just before the campground on the right

# THREE CREEK LAKE AREA

Length: trails range from 1-9 miles Elevation High: 6600 Difficulty: Moderate Setting: Forest Season: Spring-Fall

#### Northwest Forest Pass required

*Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required* Water Available Restrooms

## **DESCRIPTION:**

The Three Creek Lake Area offers a wide range of trail types and lengths. During the winter months Road 16 is not plowed on a regular basis so access may be limited to the lower sno-park. The trails are used primarily for cross country skiing and snowmobiling in the winter and hiking and biking in the summer.

### SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Be sure to check a map before mountain biking or snowmobiling in non-designated areas.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Turn south on Elm Street (Road 16) in the middle of Sisters. Follow the signs to Three Creeks Lake. After 15 miles the pavement ends. Continue on the road to Three Creeks Lake. Turn right at Driftwood Campground. Trailhead parking is just before the campground on the right.





SISTERS Country





# **HOODOO SKI AREA**

Length: 900 Vertical Feet Elevation High: 5,700 Elevation Low: 4,800 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Other Season: All

# MT. BACHELOR SKI AREA

Length: 3,100 Vertical feet, 56 kilometers of nordic trails Elevation High: 9,065 Elevation Low: 5,800 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: ALL

## DESCRIPTION:

Hoodoo Ski Area offers downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and tubing from late November to early April. There are restrooms and eating facilities as well as rental equipment available on location. There is also a wide variety of hiking in the summer months.

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 approx 18 miles. Turn left onto the Hoodoo Road about 1 mile and park in the designated areas.

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Mt Bachelor offers downhill skiing, cross country skiing, and snowboarding from late November to late May or until snowfall allows. Restrooms and dining facilities are conveniently located on the mountain. Several rental shops are also on location for your equipment needs. During the summer months Mt. Bachelor offers sight-seeing, hiking, and mountain biking. For more information call 541.382.2607

## **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:**

Head east on Hwy 20 and drive into Bend. Follow the Mt. Bachelor signs to Century Drive and continue for approximately 20 miles to the Sunrise Lodge or West Village Lodge parking areas.







# **RAY BENSON SNO-PARK**

Length: Trails range from 2-10 mile loops Elevation High: 4,800 Difficulty: Easy Setting: Forest Season: All **DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:** 

Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 to Hoodoo Ski Area. Turn left into the Hoodoo Ski Area, follow the road for approximately 1 mile, turn left and park in the designated area.

Sno Park Permit required in winter No permit required in summer Restrooms

## DESCRIPTION:

Ray Benson Sno-Park offers numerous trails for many different types of use including hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. There are plenty of visible trail markers to clearly find your way. Signs are also posted at the beginning of all trails and all intersections which tell direction and distance. Maps are available at the Sisters Ranger Station.

