



The
SISTERS
Country

**WINTER
TRAIL
GUIDE**

Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce
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Special thanks to





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.

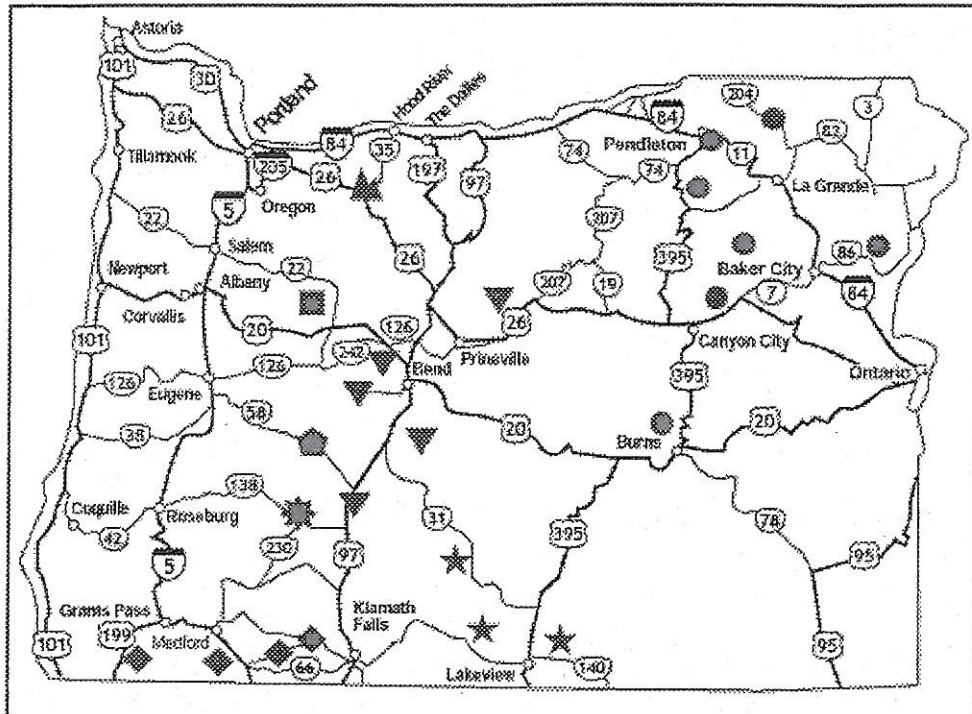
1. **Travel to avoid impacts:** When using trails go single file in the middle of the trail. Avoid making new or multiple trails
2. **Water:** protect water by washing at least 200 feet from water sources using biodegradable soaps. In addition, keep food and garbage out of lakes, rivers and streams.
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 untrammelled 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.



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LEGEND - OREGON SNO-PARK AREAS			
◆ Lake of Woods / Siskiyou Summit	■ Santiam Pass	● Northeast Oregon	▲ Mt Hood
▼ Central Oregon	◆ Crater Lake / Diamond Lake	◆ Willamette Pass	★ Southeast Oregon

SNO-PARK PERMITS

Do you like to play in the snow, ski, snowboard or snowmobile? Oregon's Sno-Park permit program helps provide parking at many of your favorite winter recreation areas.

You must have a valid Sno-Park permit displayed in the windshield of your vehicle if you park in designated winter recreation parking areas (Sno-Parks) between November 15 and April 30. Each of these areas are posted with signs identifying them as a Winter Recreation Area. You will find Sno-Parks in all mountain passes of the state as well as most recognized ski, snowmobile and snow play areas.

There are three types of permits: an annual permit which costs \$15, a 3-day permit which costs \$7, and a daily permit which costs \$3. Permits are sold at all DMV offices and by permit agents in resorts, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. Agents are allowed to charge a service fee for each permit they sell.

The cost of the annual permit provides a discount to frequent Sno-Park users over the three day and daily permits. A recent survey of Sno-Park users indicated that an annual permit is used more than 13 times per winter.

Sno-Park permits issued by Washington, California and Idaho are honored in Oregon and Oregon permits are honored in those states. Parking in an Oregon Sno-Park without a permit may result in a \$30 fine, so be sure to obtain a permit and display it on your vehicle.



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SNO-PARKS

SANTIAM PASS

TOMBSTONE SUMMIT – 11 miles west of Santiam Junction on U.S. Highway 20. Nordic skiing on existing roads. Five-mile downhill tie-in to Lost Prairie. No snowmobiling. Areas suitable for snow play.

LOST PRAIRIE – 7.5 miles west of Santiam Junction on U.S. Highway 20. Nordic skiing on trail from Tombstone Summit, but steep grade. Open, flat meadows suitable for beginning skiers to practice. Areas suitable for snow play. No snowmobiling.

IKENICK – 3.5 miles south of U.S. 20 on State Highway 126. Snowmobiling and Nordic skiing. Thirteen miles of Nordic trails. Snowmobiling on road system.

LITTLE NASH – 1 mile west of Santiam Junction on U.S. Highway 20. Both uses. Snowmobile route connects with Ray Benson Sno-park via Santiam Wagon Road and USFS Road 2676 (Santiam Airstrip Trail). Limited Nordic skiing on existing roads. Twelve miles recently added.

POTATO HILL – 1 mile east of Santiam Junction on Highway 20. Nordic skiing with six miles marked trail ties to west end of Big Lake Burn for open, unmarked skiing.

HOODOO SKI AREA – 5 miles east of Santiam Junction on U.S. Highway 20. Nordic and downhill skiing. Groomed Nordic trails for fee. No snowmobiling.

RAY BENSON – 5 miles east of Santiam Junction on Highway 20. Nordic skiing and snowmobiling. Snowmobile access to Three Creek Lake system and Corbett Sno-park, with more than 40 miles of marked snowmobile trails. Extensive system of Nordic trails with three shelters and 30 miles of marked trails, with downhill tie-in to Corbett.

SANTIAM PASS – 5 miles east of Santiam Junction on U.S. Highway 20 opposite Hoodoo entrance. Nordic skiing with access to southern Mount Jefferson Wilderness. Unmarked trails. Hills suitable for snow play. Restroom.

CORBETT – 9 miles east of Santiam Junction on Highway 20. Nordic and snowmobile use. Connects with Ray Benson trail system.

CENTRAL OREGON

VIRGINIA MEISSNER – This snow-park was new for the 1988-90 season and includes 17 miles of beginning to intermediate Nordic skiing. Trail connects to Swampy Lakes trails. Restrooms and shelters. Play hills off Knotweed Trail near the parking lot. Snowmobiles not allowed.

WANOGA – 15 miles southwest of Bend on Century Drive. Thirty-six miles of groomed snowmobile trails. Dog sled races are held out of this park. Restroom.

SWAMPY LAKES – 16 miles southwest of Bend on Century Drive. Beginning to advanced Nordic skiing with 30 miles of marked trails and three warming shelters with wood stoves along trails and one at the parking lot. Restroom. Snowmobiles not allowed.

VISTA BUTTE – 19 miles southwest of Bend on Century Drive. Intermediate to advanced Nordic skiing on 20 miles of trails. Tie-in to Swampy Lakes and Dutchman Flat trails.

DUTCHMAN FLAT – 24 miles southwest of Bend on Century Drive near Mount Bachelor ski area. Beginning to advanced Nordic skiing with 30 miles of marked trails and tie-in to Vista Butte and Swampy Lakes trails and Three Sisters Wilderness. Twenty-eight miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

EDISON BUTTE – 23 miles southwest of Bend and four miles south of Century Drive on Sunriver Road (USFS Road 45) or seven miles north of Sunriver on Road 445. Seventeen miles of beginning to intermediate Nordic ski trails in stands of old-growth ponderosa and lodgepole pines. Two warming shelters on trail system. Twenty-seven miles of snowmobile trails. Restroom.

THREE CREEK LAKE ROAD – 9.5 miles south of Sisters on Three Creek Lake Road (USFS Road 16). The sno-park is located at the junction of Forest Road 16 and 700 with 12 miles of Nordic trails and access to groomed snowmobile trails. Snowmobile routes connect with Three Creek Lake Road, Elk Lake, McKenzie Pass and Santiam Pass.

NEWBERRY CRATER – Two sites located 6 and 10 miles east of U.S. Highway 97 on Newberry Crater Road. More than 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails and numerous play areas and inner-tube hills. Intermediate and backcountry Nordic skiing opportunities.

OCHOCOS

MARKS CREEK SLED HILL – 27.5 miles east of Prineville on U.S. Highway 26. For sledding. No snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles allowed off main road. Season: Mid-December through March.

BANDIT SPRINGS – 28 miles east of Prineville on U.S. Highway 26. Has 13 miles of marked cross-country trails. Motorized winter access prohibited except on Forest Service Road 27.

OCHOCO DIVIDE – 28.5 miles east of Prineville on U.S. Highway 26. More than 30 miles of snowmobile trails. Toilet.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN – 15 miles east of Prineville on U.S. Highway 26, then county road 123 to FS Road 42, go 6.5 miles. Marked trails are difficult to find near summit. For experienced skiers only. Snowmobiles allowed. Shelter.

WILLAMETTE PASS

WALDO LAKE ROAD – 25 miles northwest of U.S. Highway 97 on State Highway 58. Primarily snowmobile use. Fifty miles of marked trails with access to Century Drive area. Restroom.

WILLAMETTE PASS – 23 miles northwest of U.S. Highway 97 on State Highway 58. Nordic and downhill skiing. Two non-fee Forest Service Nordic trails. Rosary Lake and Willamette Pass tie. Groom trails maintained by Willamette Pass Ski Area available for fee.

GOLD LAKE ROAD – 22 miles northwest of U.S. Highway 97 on State Highway 58. Nordic skiing. More than 20 miles of marked trails. Access to Odell Lake and Waldo Lake. Warming cabin with wood stove. Information office at parking lot. Two shelters with wood stoves on trail system.

ROYCE MOUNTAIN – 15 miles northwest of Highway 97 on Highway 58. Primarily snowmobiling. Road access to Davis Lake and Century Drive area. Vault toilet.

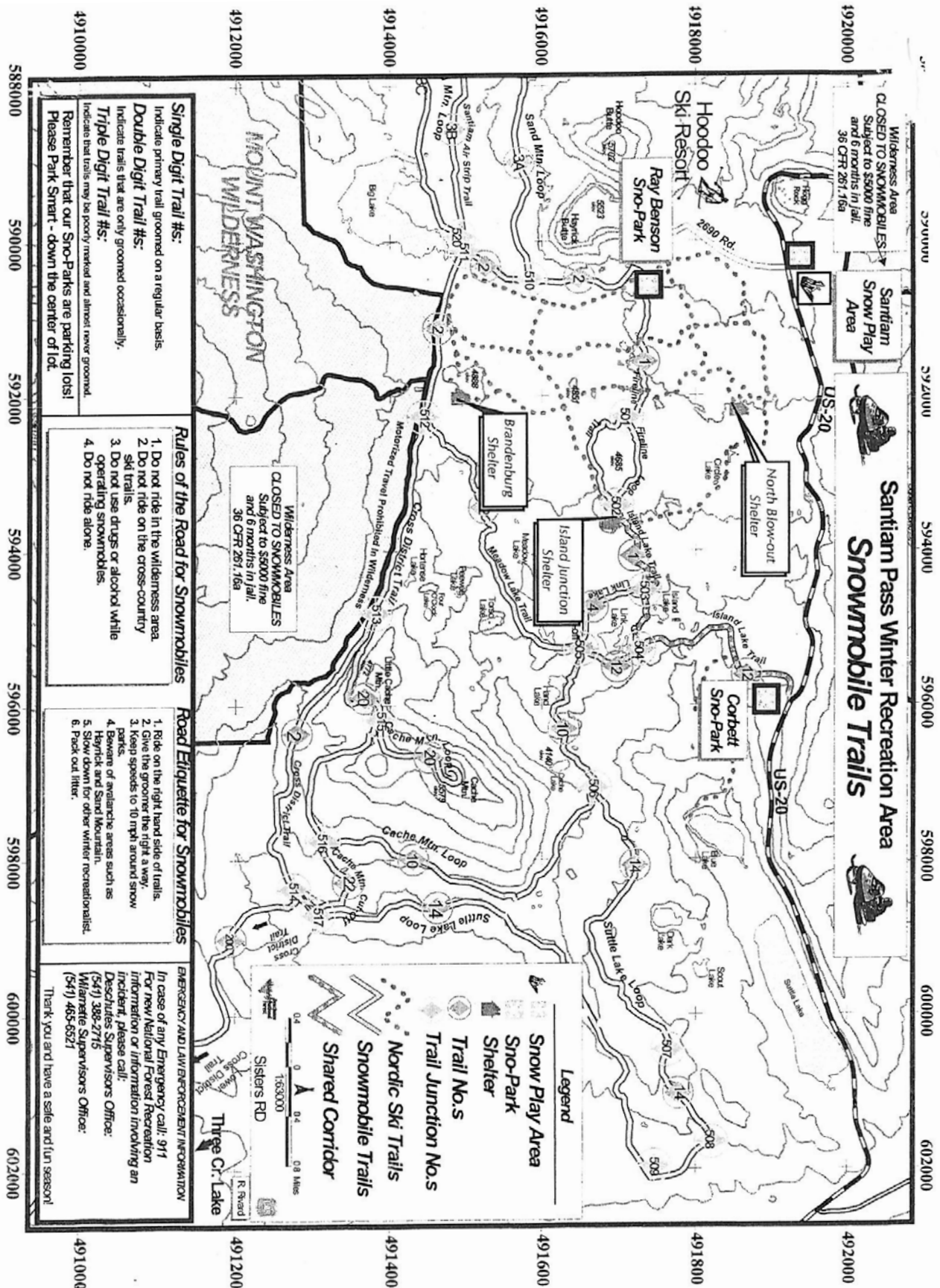
CRESCENT LAKE – 2 miles west of State Highway 58 and Crescent Lake Junction. Primarily snowmobile use with access to groomed trails and roads south to Diamond Lake and Chemult areas. Off-trail Nordic skiing opportunities.



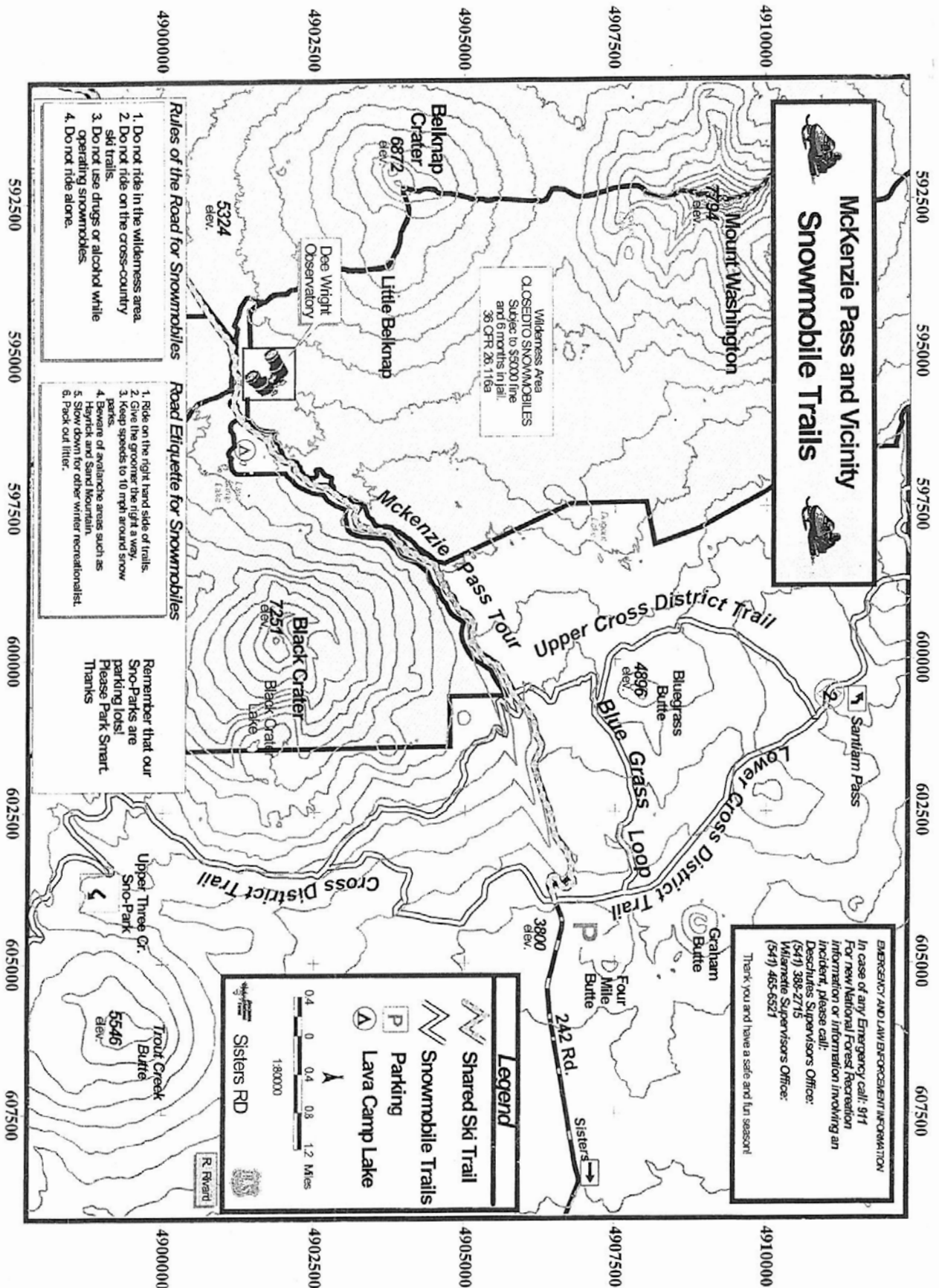
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SANTIAM PASS SNOWMOBILE TRAILS



MCKENZIE PASS SNOWMOBILE TRAILS





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SISTERS RANGER DISTRICT WINTER TRAILS

Trail Name	No.	Season	Sno-Park Fee	Length (miles)	Elevation Low-High	Difficulty	Nordic Ski	Snow-mobile
Blue Lake	4034	Winter		3.9	3700-4500		OK	
Blue Lake Resort	4052	Winter		15.0			OK	
Brandenburg Loop	4046.1	Winter		0.5			OK	
Circle Lake	4042	Winter		3.7			OK	
Cottonwood	4041	Winter		1.8			OK	
Fire Line Loop	4047	Winter		3.4				OK
Hidden Lake	4039	Winter		1.1			OK	
Island Lake	4040	Winter		3.1			OK	OK
Lake Creek	4028	Winter		4.5			OK	
Lava Camp Lake	4059	Winter/ Spring		0.5		Beginner	OK	
Link Lake Cutoff	4049	Winter		1.1				OK
McKenzie Pass	4056	Winter		8.0			OK	OK
Meadow Lake	4048	Winter		4.6				OK
Nancy's Loop	4084	Winter/ Spring		2.6			OK	
North Loop	4043	Winter		4.1			OK	
Round Lake	4029	Winter		5.0			OK	
Scout Lake	4033	Winter		1.3			OK	
Snow Creek		Winter/ Spring		9.0		Expert	OK	
South Loop	4046	Winter		6.0			OK	
Suttle Lake	4030	Winter		3.2			OK	
Three Creek Lake	4084	Winter/ Spring				Expert	OK	
Two Buttes	4045	Winter					OK	
Warren's Loop	4084	Winter/ Spring		2.6		Intermediate	OK	



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RAY BENSON SNO-PARK

Length: Trails range from 2-10 mile loops

Elevation High: 4,800

Difficulty: Easy

Setting: Forest

Season: All

Sno Park Permit required in winter

No permit required in summer

Restrooms

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.

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.



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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.

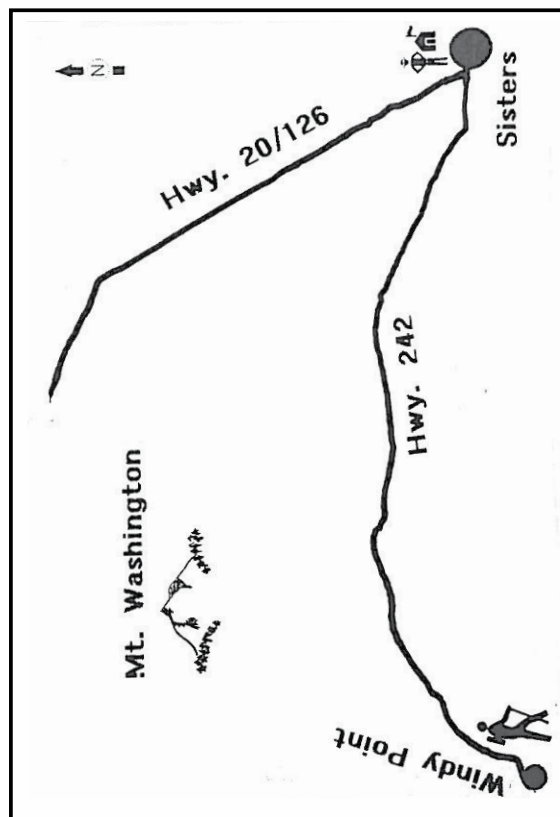
The trail enters the Three Sisters Wilderness shortly after leaving the trailhead. Permits are required for both day-use and overnight travel in the Wilderness. Day-use permits are available at the trailhead, overnight permits must be obtained from a Forest Service office or commercial outlet. Bring 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:

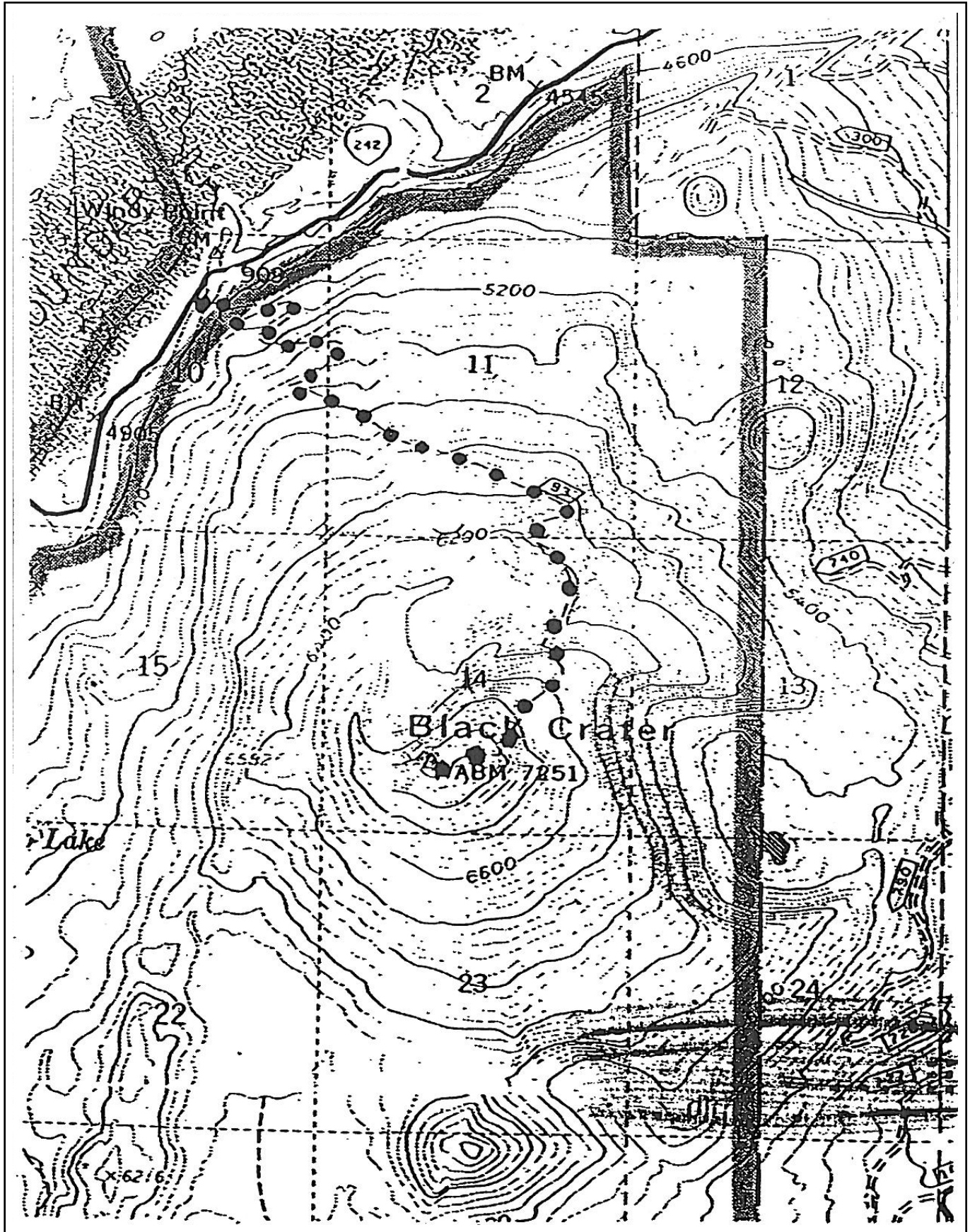
Drive west 11.5 miles from Sisters on the McKenzie Hwy 242. Watch for the Black Crater sign. The trailhead is on the left just past Windy Point. The parking area is on the left side of the road.



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BLACK CRATER





SISTERS COUNTRY 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:

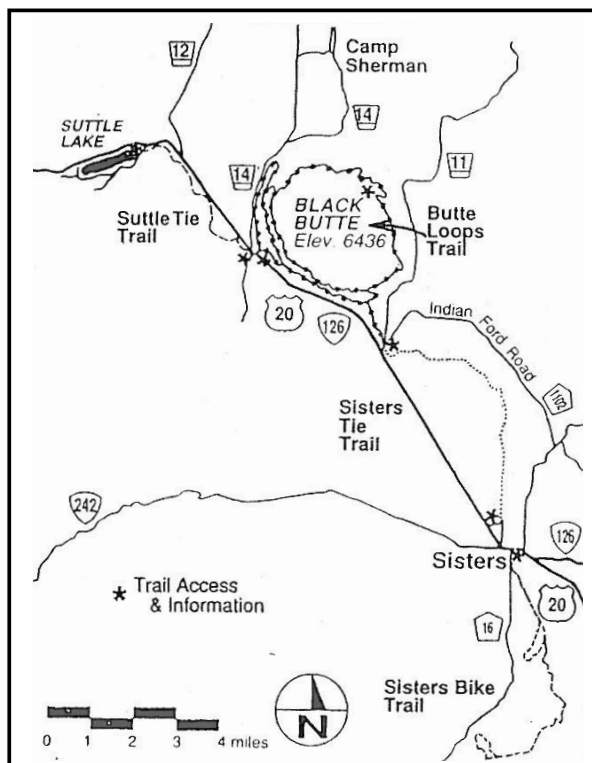
Most of the trails you will be riding on in the Black Butte area are part of a Roads to Trails Program. Portions of abandoned roads have been designated as trails and are being managed as part of our trail system.

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:

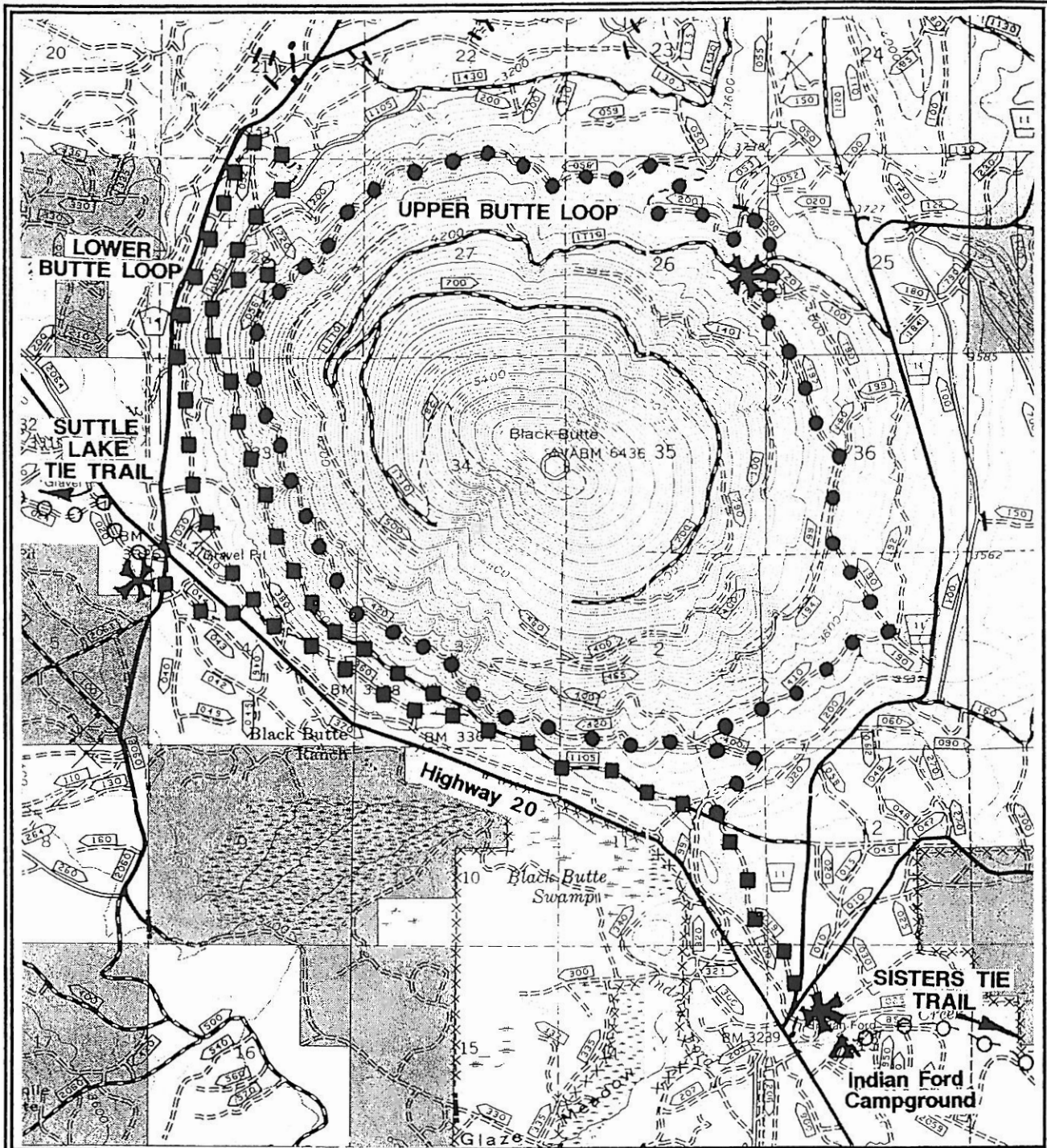
Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 6 miles. Then turn right onto Forest Road 11 and continue 4 miles to the "Black Butte Trailhead" sign. Turn left onto Forest Road 1110 and proceed for just over a half mile to a small parking area on the left side of the road.



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BUTTE LOOPS TRAIL



BUTTE LOOP TRAILS

LEGEND

- ● ● Upper Loop
- ■ ■ Lower Loop
- ✱ Trail Access & Information

Scale 1-1/4" = 1 mi.

Contour Interval 80 ft



SISTERS COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE



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.

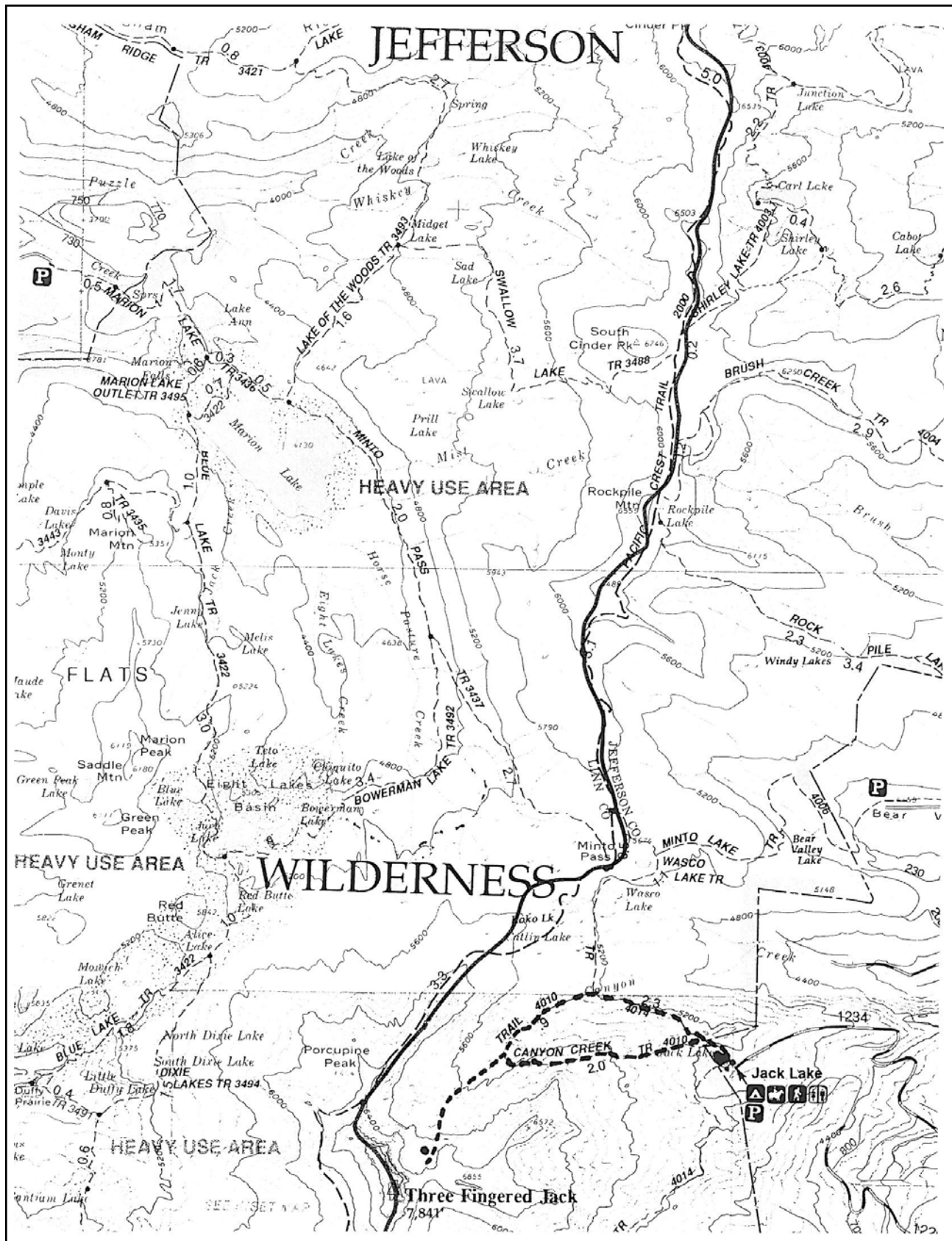
DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:

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





SISTERS COUNTRY TRAIL GUIDE



GREEN RIDGE TRAIL

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

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.

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:

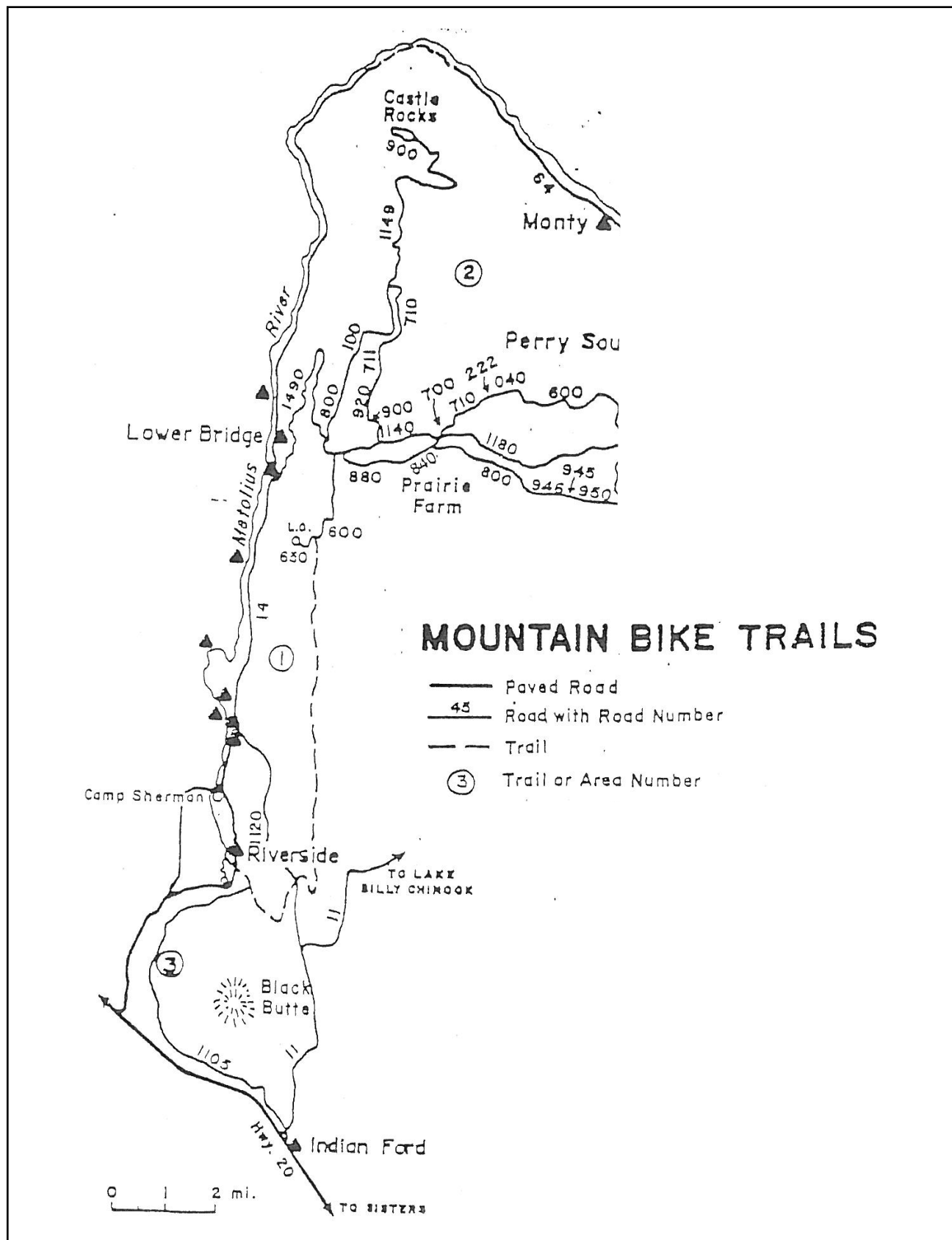
Proceed 5.5 miles west on Hwy 20 to FS Road 11 (Green Ridge Road). Turn right on Road 11 and travel on the paved road for 10 miles to the end of the pavement and the junction of the Road 1150. Take the left fork Road 1150 and travel 6 miles to the junction of Road 1154. Turn left on Road 1140 and travel 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.



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GREEN RIDGE TRAIL





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HEAD OF JACK CREEK

Length: 1/4 Mile Loop

Elevation High: 3200

Difficulty: Easy

Setting: River

Season: All

Northwest Forest Pass required

DESCRIPTION:

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.

COMMENTS:

Please stay on the trail to protect sensitive vegetation.

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 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.

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.



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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 snowpark. Continue another 0.6 miles to the Iron Mountain trailhead parking on the left.



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LINTON LAKE

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.



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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 Belknop 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 Belknop junction to the base of Belknop 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.



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SISTERS COUNTRY 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

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.

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 passes 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.



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**SISTERS COUNTRY
TRAIL GUIDE**



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.



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PROXY FALLS

Length: 1 mile round trip

Elevation High: 3,120

Difficulty: Easy

Setting: Forest

Season: Spring-Fall

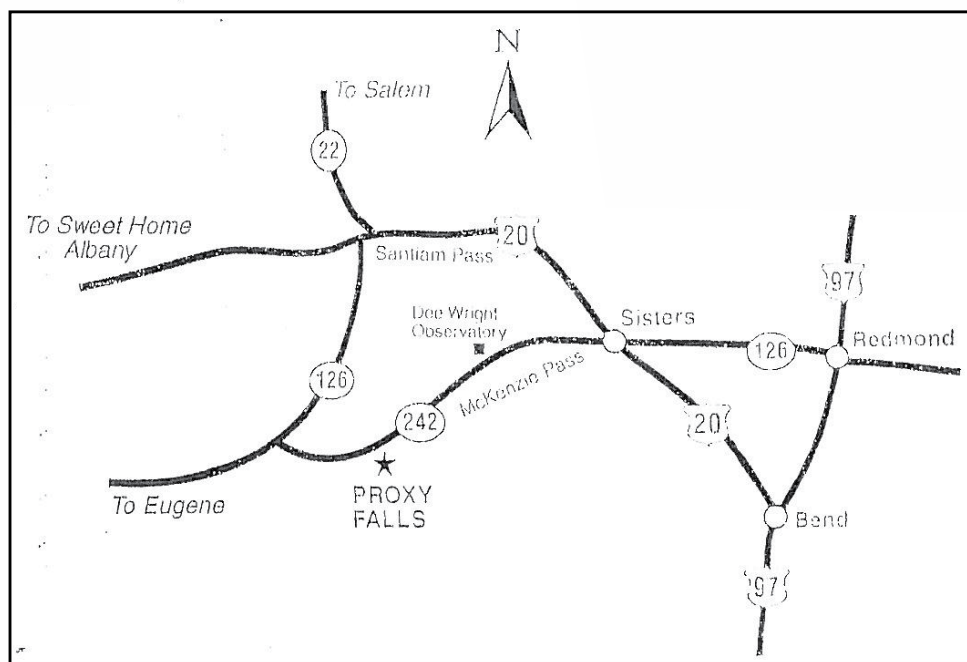
DIRECTIONS & TRAIL ACCESS:

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.

Free, self-issued on-site Wilderness Permit required

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.



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SKYLIGHT CAVE

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

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.

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.

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.



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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:

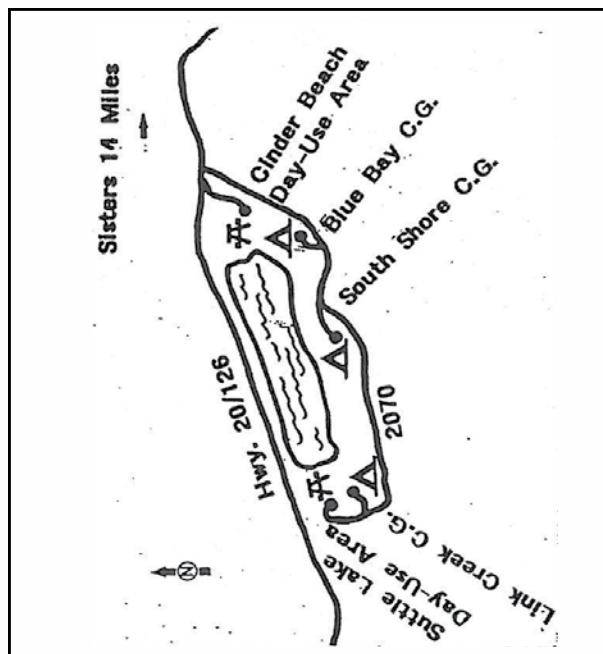
As you look around the forested area surrounding Suttle Lake you will see some trees that are healthy and others that appear to be dying. The healthy trees with the long green needles are pines. The affected trees are comprised of true firs and Douglas firs that were being defoliated by an infestation 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:

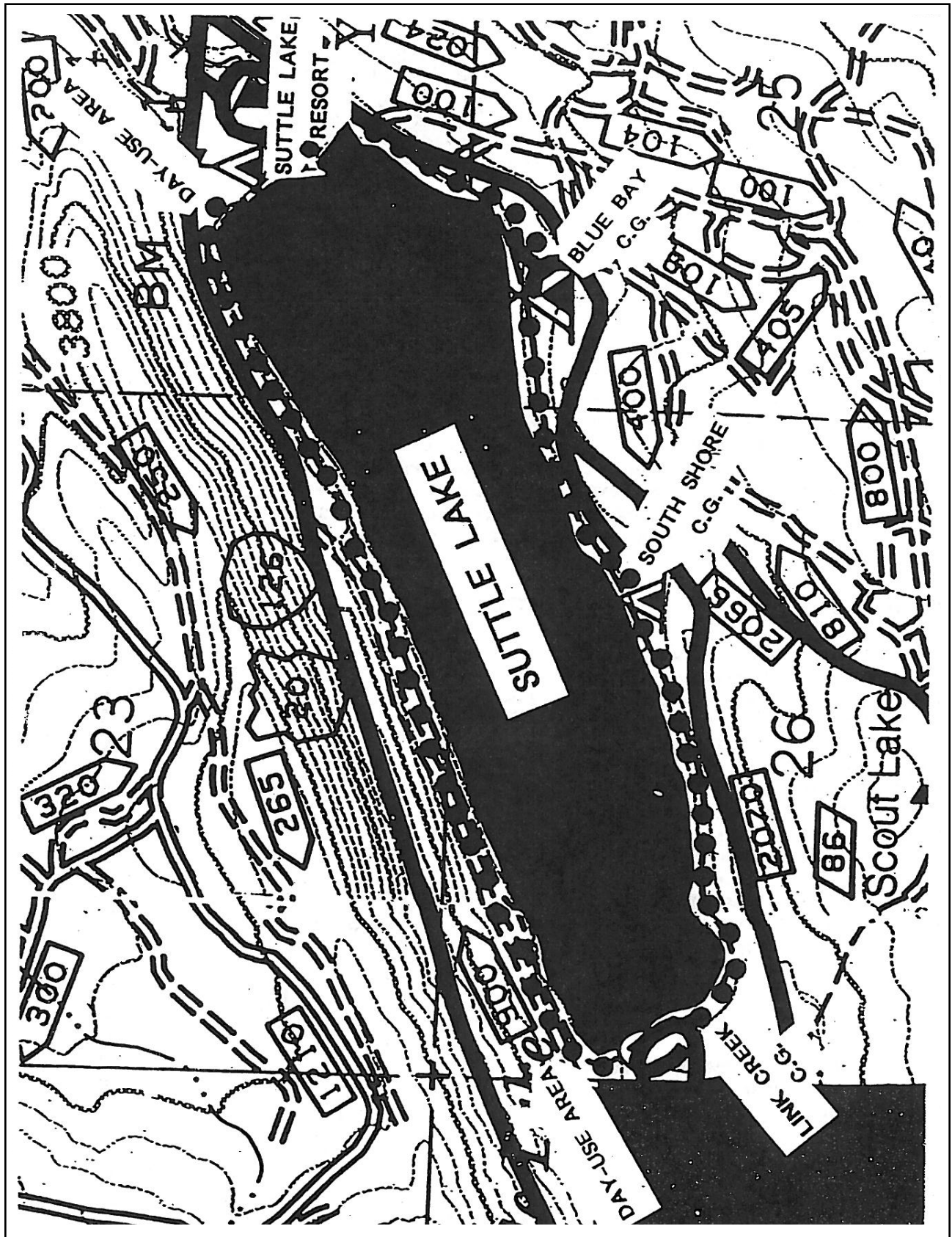
Proceed west from Sisters on Hwy 20 for 14 miles to road 2070, the road to the Suttle Lake campgrounds. Follow Road 2070 for approximately 3 miles. The best place to access the trail is at the Suttle Lake Picnic Area just north of Link Creek Campground. The trail may also be accessed from any of the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



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SUTTLE LAKE SHORELINE 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

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.

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 identify 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 trail 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.



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HOODOO SKI AREA

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

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:

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.



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THREE CREEK LAKE NORDIC TRAILS

Length: 3-12 miles round trip depending on loops

Elevation High: 6800

Elevation Low: 5200

Difficulty: Easiest to Difficult

Setting:

Season: Winter

Restrictions: No snowmobiles (upper portion of Road 16 is shared with snowmobiles)

Sno-park Permit required

ACCESS TO UPPER THREE CREEK SNO-PARK:

Travel south from Sisters on Three Creek Road (Forest Road #16) for 11 miles to the Upper Three Creek Nordic Sno-park. Road 16 is not plowed on a regular basis and at times access is limited to the Lower Three Creek Sno-park. Portions of the road are steep, narrow and may require tire chains or traction devices.

ACCESS TO LOWER THREE CREEK SNO-PARK:

When snow conditions prohibit road access to the Upper Sno-park, use the Lower Three Creek Sno-park that is on the east side of Forest Road 16, 9.5 miles south of Sisters. To access the trailheads ski up Road 16 for 2 miles to the green gate.

THREE CREEK LAKE TRAIL:

Easiest to Most Difficult. This Nordic trail is located on Road 700 and provides access to Warren's Loop, Nancy's Loop, Jeff View Shelter, Snow Creek Ditch Trail and Three Creek Lake. The climb is long and steady with occasional flat sections, but the scenery and views are beautiful and the return trip is mostly downhill. A ski shelter is tucked in the trees north of the trail 2.3 miles from the Sno-park. On a clear day one can enjoy views of black Butte and Mount Jefferson. Use extra caution after the junction with Road 16 near Three Creek Lake. This portion of the trail is a "Shared Corridor" with snowmobiles and cross country skiers.

WARREN'S LOOP:

More Difficult. Distance around loop is 1.5 miles. This loop is moderately difficult with alternating short steep pitches and flat sections. After leaving the sno-park, ski up Forest Road 700 for about .7 mile. At the top of the hill, 100 yards past the sharp right turn, is a junction and the start of the loop. The loop is located on parts of the Metolius-Windigo trail (Roads 710 and 740). This is the shortest loop in the Three Creek Lake Nordic system. Always follow the blue diamonds even though yellow diamonds may be present along the trail.

NANCY'S LOOPS:

Easiest. Distance around the loop is 1.7 miles. This loop begins about 1/2 mile beyond Warren's Loop and is slightly less difficult. The terrain is flatter, however the loop is longer. Again, there may be yellow diamonds along the trail. Always follow the blue diamonds.

JEFF VIEW LOOP:

More Difficult. This 1 mile trail traverses west from Jeff View Shelter then drops down a slope hill through an opening and onto old logging road that heads back to the east where it intersects with Nancy's Loop.

SNOW CREEK TRAIL:

Most Difficult. The Snow Creek Trail is located on portions of the Metolius-Windigo and starts 4.7 miles up the Three Creek Lake trail at the junction of Forest Road 16 and the road leading to the Park Meadow trailhead. It offers more challenge with varied terrain and views of the Three Sisters. The trail is best skied from the south to the north. The trail roughly parallels part of the Snow Creek ditch then Snow Creek before turning northeast along the Metolius-Windigo trail. Near the north end you will tie in with Nancy's Loop. The total round trip distance from the Sno-park up Three Creek Lake trail and down the Snow Creek Trail is about 9 miles. Follow the blue diamonds even though you may see yellow diamonds along the horse trail.



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THREE CREEK LAKE NORDIC TRAILS

