

# Gorge Vistas

A Visitor's Guide to National Forest recreation opportunities in the Columbia River Gorge



## Welcome to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

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# What is a National Scenic Area?



Multnomah Falls

You may wonder what a National Scenic Area is. It's not a National Forest, National Park or Wilderness. Instead, it is an area where rural and scenic resources are protected while community growth and development is encouraged.

For many years, the Columbia River Gorge has been the focus of public attention because of its unique natural features, its outstanding public recreation opportunities and its important contribution to the Pacific Northwest economy. Concern grew over who should



Looking west from White Salmon

manage the Columbia River Gorge and in what way. Not only is the Columbia River Gorge a natural wonder, it serves as an important transportation corridor and home to nearly 72,000 people, industries, businesses, communities, farms and schools.

A decade ago, the 99th U.S. Congress passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act creating the 295,000-acre Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. On

November 17, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed it into law.

The National Scenic Area Act has two purposes:

1. To protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational and natural resources of the Gorge; and
2. To protect and support the economy of the Gorge by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future

economic development outside these areas if it is compatible with Gorge resources.

The Act called for a partnership between the USDA Forest Service, the Columbia River Gorge Commission (a bi-state regional planning agency), the states of Oregon and Washington and the six counties with land in the National Scenic Area. The act also called for inter-agency and tribal

cooperation and coordination.

The various groups carefully developed a management plan for continued growth of recreation and other development opportunities while protecting the scenic, cultural and natural resources of the Gorge. The building of Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA, helped the economy of Skamania County, an area where the timber industry was suffering. The Discovery Center and Museum educates visitors and

residents about the history, culture and natural resources of the Gorge. In addition, recreation development and resource enhancement programs are some of the other projects directed by the management plan.

The National Scenic Area is 15 years old and still in its youth. Through the management plan, the Columbia River Gorge will be protected for future generations to experience, enjoy and value.

Whether you're from a local area or visiting, you can help in the future management of the Columbia River Gorge. For more information about the National Scenic Area, refer to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act Public Law 99-663. You can also contact the National Scenic Area office and the Gorge Commission (see back cover).



World-famous windsurfing

# 10,000 Years of Tradition



Fishing platform

## Step Back in Time and History

For over 31,000 years, the Columbia River Gorge has supported flourishing civilizations. Evidence of the Folsom and Marmes people, who crossed the Great Continental Divide from Asia, were found in archaeological digs. Excavations at Five Mile Rapids, a few miles east of The Dalles, show humans have occupied this ideal salmon fishing site for more than 10,000 years.

Ancestors of today's Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribal nations lived and fished along the river's banks. Tribes from all over western North America would come to this area to trade for dried, smoked salmon.

The U.S. government and the local tribes signed a treaty in 1855. The tribes had fishing rights for thousands of years before the westward migration of settlers. In the treaty, they reserved their rights while losing their lands from conquest and trickery. It is still possible to see American Indians fishing from platforms with dip nets in the tradition of long ago. In addition, ancient petroglyphs and pictographs are still visible on stone walls along the Columbia.

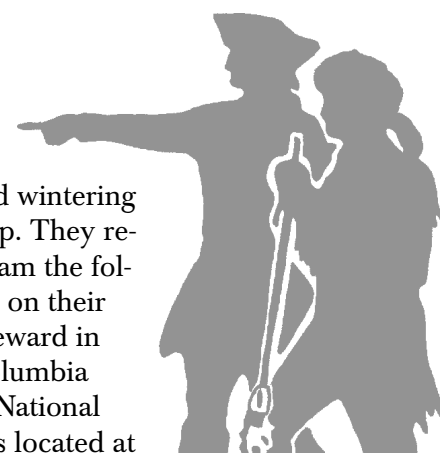
Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and their Corps of Discovery descended the Columbia River in dugout canoes in the fall of 1805, reaching their goal at the mouth of the

Columbia and wintering at Fort Clatsop. They returned upstream the following spring on their journey homeward in 1806. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is located at a point in the journey of the Corps of Discovery where, despite being so close to their goal of the Pacific Ocean, the Corps made significant observations and had important encounters with the Native people. At this point in their journey, Lewis & Clark traveled mostly by river. The numerous rapids and falls were hazardous and despite challenges in the Gorge, the Corps of Discovery took time to continue their scientific observations and described several hundred species of plants and animals, some for the first time.

The magnificent resources of the Gorge lured explorers and fur traders westward. Botanist David Douglas and ornithologist John Townsend, "the bird chief," explored and documented geology, geography, plants and animals. When they were in the western region of the Gorge, they recorded they had difficulty sleeping at night because the many birds in the area were so loud. From reports and illustrations of their travel, people's curiosity of moving westward developed.

In 1843, about 900 people braved the 2,000 mile Oregon Trail to reach the Willamette Valley. By 1849, approximately 11,500 pioneers poured into Oregon, forever changing life in the Columbia Gorge.

Remnants of fish wheels, artifacts, petroglyphs and pictographs are visible to history buffs, as well as Oregon's first steam locomotives and cultural influences of Chinese cannery workers. Steamboats, railroads and highways replaced canoes and rafts, and the Columbia Gorge remains a major transportation route through the Cascade Mountain Range. Today, the river continues to carry grain, livestock, lumber, fruit and vegetables grown and processed in the Columbia Basin.



## Where to visit Gorge History

- Maryhill Museum of Art: Exhibits include Indian baskets & stone tools.
- Celilo Park: Historic Native American fishing grounds. The Corps of Discovery portaged around these great falls, now under water.
- The Dalles Dam: This area was the center of trade for tribes from the Plains to the Pacific.
- Columbia Hills State Park: Camp site for Lewis & Clark; view petroglyphs by appointment only, 509-767-1159.
- Rock Fort: Lewis & Clark encampment in The Dalles.
- Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum: Official interpretive center for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Includes exhibits, films and special programs in The Dalles.
- Memaloose State Park: Named for the offshore island used by early Indians as a burial ground and described by Lewis & Clark.
- Hood River County Historical Museum: Displays of Indian artifacts including Klickitat baskets.
- Cascade Locks Marine Park and Historical Museum: At the Cascades of the Columbia, now under water, Lewis & Clark observed evidence of a massive landslide that had once blocked the river and gave rise to the myth of "The Bridge of the Gods."
- Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center: Historic Skamania County and Columbia River exhibits.
- Eagle Creek Picnic Area, Campground and Trail: the first campground in the National Forest system, Civilian Conservation Corps structures circa 1930s.
- Bonneville Dam Visitor Center and the Fort Cascades Historic Trail: Fish viewing windows, river history, visitor center and trails.
- Beacon Rock State Park: Point where the Corps first noted the tidal influence of the Pacific Ocean.
- Rooster Rock State Park: Lewis & Clark encampment.
- Vista House at Crown Point State Park: The original "comfort station" on the Historic Columbia River Highway.
- Lewis & Clark Recreation Site: The Corps' hunters explored this area at the mouth of the Sandy River.



Tsagaglatal (She Who Watches)

# Geologic Tour

## Along the western portion of the Historic Columbia River Highway

**ROOSTER ROCK** is part of a landslide between Crown Point and the rock itself. The landslide was possibly triggered by the Missoula Floods. Much of the landslide has been eroded away leaving the rock standing alone. Rooster Rock is made of the same lava flow exposed at Crown Point, which is an entablature-colonnade jointed block of Columbia River basalt.



**PILLOW LAVA** can be seen clearly along the Historic Columbia River Highway, east of Crown Point and near the top of Multnomah Falls. When molten lava flows into water, it becomes pillow lava which are spherical masses. The pillowing effect is due to water quickly cooling the hot lava.



**CROWN POINT** is a 14.5 million year old Columbia River basalt flow which filled a former canyon of the Columbia River.

**MULTNOMAH FALLS** is the highest waterfall in the Columbia River Gorge with a total drop of 620 feet. Rapid uplift of this region over the last two million years has forced the Columbia River to incise the Gorge we see today. However, side streams, like Multnomah Creek, did not have the erosive power of the Columbia River and were left behind to plunge off the Gorge's basalt cliffs. Multnomah Falls is a "side-effect" of the geologic origin of the Gorge.



*Prepared by Portland State University Geology Capstone students in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area December 1997.*

**BEACON ROCK**, named by Lewis and Clark in 1805, rises 800 feet above the Columbia River. Its sheer sides exhibit vertical columnar jointing on a large scale. Beacon Rock is actually the erosional remains of an ancient shield volcano's plug.



At **LATOURELL FALLS** you can see entablature jointing. This is a distinctive jointing pattern found in the Columbia River basalt flows. Stress, produced when lava cools and contracts, causes joints to form. Columnar joints (colonnades) are found below the entablature. They were formed perpendicular to the lower cooling surface and are beautiful prisms and columns. You can also see such jointing at Shepherds Dell, Crown Point and Multnomah Falls.



**BONNEVILLE DAM** (Bonneville Landslides). 500 to 800 years ago, a large portion of Table Mountain collapsed and slid into the Columbia River. This event, known as the Bonneville Landslides, forced the entire river to weave south. The landslide produced the Cascade Rapids on the Columbia which were nearly impassable by raft for early pioneers. The landslide was likely the basis for the "Bridge of the Gods" legend.



## Where did this place come from? Once upon a time, 40 million years ago . . .

The story of the Columbia River Gorge begins with the fiery volcanoes of the Cascade Mountain Range. Over the centuries these volcanoes left lava and mudflows up to two miles thick. Remnants of these flows can still be seen in the cliffs of the Gorge. The Columbia River cut a deep canyon through the lava, ash and mud.

The greatest force in the Gorge's creation was flooding. About 15,000 years ago, near the end of the last Ice Age, gigantic floods up to 1,200 feet deep swept down the river corridor and scoured its cliffs, leaving its tributary streams hanging high above the river's bed. Today, many streams cascade down the cliffs creating one of the world's greatest concentrations of waterfalls.

The walls of the Gorge were further altered by massive landslides. Recent geologic activity can be viewed today off I-84 at Dodson, where a wide flow of debris moved houses and wiped out a community's infrastructure in 1996.

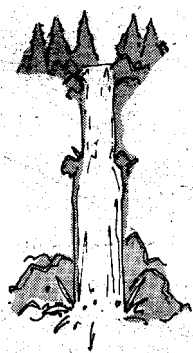
The natural elements of the Gorge adapt to its magnificent geology, creating a mosaic of ecosystems – from the wet, emerald forests of the western Gorge to pine-oak woodlands and the arid, grassy savannahs of the east. The Columbia River Gorge is the only sea level passage through the Cascade Mountain Range – from the river, the Gorge rises to 4,055-foot Larch Mountain, a rapid change from sea level to sub-alpine environment.

# Trickling, Misting, Spraying, Cascading . . . Have we got waterfalls!



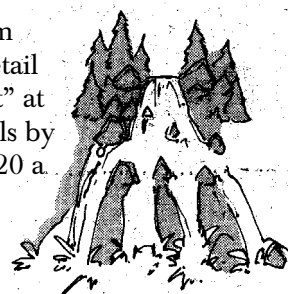
*Triple Falls photo by Peter Marbach*

The Columbia River Gorge is famous for its falls – 77 on the Oregon side alone! They come in all shapes and sizes. Waterfall watchers (be careful, you could become one!) classify them into eight forms – plunge, horsetail, fan, cascade, punchbowl, block, tier, and segmented. Starting to sound complicated? It’s simpler than it sounds. You can see examples of each of these waterfall shapes on a tour of the Historic Columbia River Highway . . . and just beyond.

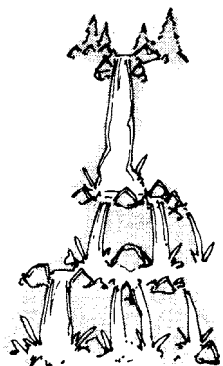


**A PLUNGE** drops vertically and away from the cliffside, losing contact with bedrock. Multnomah Falls is a classic example and so is Latourell Falls.

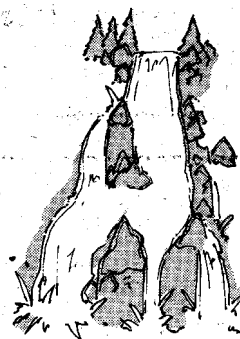
**A FAN** descends from a stream above and is similar to a horsetail but it gets broader or “fans out” at the bottom. See fan-shaped falls by hiking the Wahkeena Trail #420 a little over a mile from the trailhead to Fairy Falls.



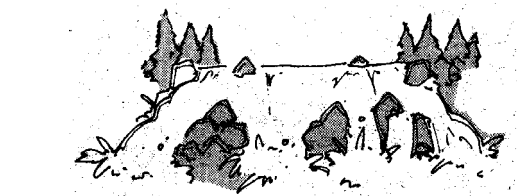
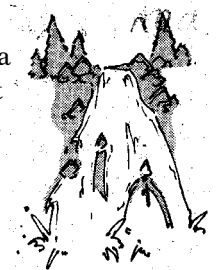
**A TIER** falls, then falls, then falls again. It has several “tiers” – separate falls that can all be viewed all at once. Wahkeena is tiered as well as Bridal Veil.



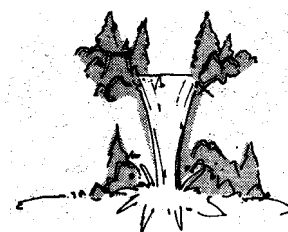
**SEGMENTS** separate into several parts. Examples include Triple Falls on Oneonta Trail #424, and upper McCord Creek Falls, on the Elowah Falls Trail out of John B. Yeon State Park.



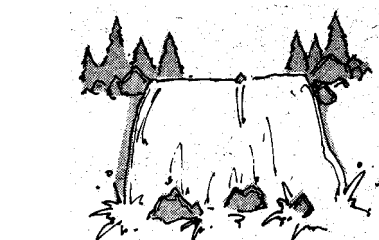
**A HORSETAIL** looks just like a horsetail. Dropping vertically, it maintains contact with bedrock. Oneonta and (of course) Horsetail Falls are good examples.



**A CASCADE** tumbles along a series of rock steps. You’ll find a fine model by following the directions to Dutchman Falls, then hiking .2 of a mile – a total of 1.9 miles from the trailhead – to Upper Multnomah Falls, near the junction with Wahkeena Trail, #420.



**PUNCHBOWLS** pour out of a narrow opening in the stream and into a pool. Punchbowl Falls, a 2.1 mile hike on the Eagle Creek Trail, features a viewpoint and bench – the perfect combination for a rest stop.



**A BLOCK** pours over a wide section of a stream. Dutchman Falls along upper Multnomah Creek is a block shape and can be seen at the 1.7 mile point on Larch Mountain Trail #441. The trail starts at the east side of Multnomah Falls Lodge.

# Explore the Columbia River Gorge!

It's easy to navigate through the Columbia River Gorge. State Route 14 on the Washington side and Interstate 84 on the Oregon side are the main highways along the Columbia River. Four bridges help you get from one side of the river to the other: Cascade Locks/Stevenson; Hood River/Bingen; The Dalles/Dallesport, and Biggs/Maryhill. Buckle up, drive safely and enjoy!

**1 Cape Horn Viewpoint** is a vista with a gorgeous panorama of the west end of the Columbia River Gorge.

**2 Sams Walker Day Use Site** on Skamania Landing offers a 1.7 mile roundtrip universal access trail with a picnic site, interpretive signs and views of the Oregon side of the Gorge. Turn south onto the west entrance road to Skamania Landing near the town of Skamania. Be careful as you cross the railroad tracks! The parking lot is 0.3 mile on the right.

**3 Beacon Rock** is an 848-foot-high remnant of an ancient volcano. A well-engineered trail leads to the top where a grand view awaits you. There are also picnicking, additional hiking trails, boating and camping.

**4 Bonneville Lock and Dam** was built in 1937; its second powerhouse was built in 1981. Visitor centers are located on both sides of the river, with a fish hatchery on the Oregon side.

**5 The Bridge of the Gods** is named from Native American legend in which a stone arch built by the gods spanned the mighty river. Today, a toll bridge of the same name, built in 1926, crosses the river and is also a part of the **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**, which runs from Mexico to Canada.

**6 Stevenson**, the seat of Skamania County, hosts **Skamania Lodge Conference Center** and the **Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center**.

Visit the **U.S. Forest Service Information Center** at Skamania Lodge where our information specialists are happy to answer questions about the Columbia River Gorge and help you plan your visit.

**7 Carson** is an entry point to the **Gifford Pinchot National Forest** where you can camp, fish, hunt, hike, cross country ski and see views of **Mount St. Helens**.

**8 Dog Mountain Trail** (FS Trail #147) leads to the 2,948-foot Dog Mountain summit where you can see gorgeous views from several vistas. This trail is popular for wildflower enthusiasts, especially in the spring.

**9 Drano Lake**, the Little White Salmon River estuary, is popular for boating and fishing. Upstream is the **Little White Salmon/Willard National Fish Hatchery** with two facilities for Chinook and Coho salmon. Visitors welcome.

**10 The White Salmon National Wild and Scenic River** is famous for its white water rapids. Kayakers and rafters can launch from the town of **BZ Corners**, up S.R. 141.

**11 Bingen and White Salmon** are neighboring towns with German-style buildings in their commercial business areas. Wineries, fruit stands, shops, restaurants and bed & breakfast accommodations await visitors.

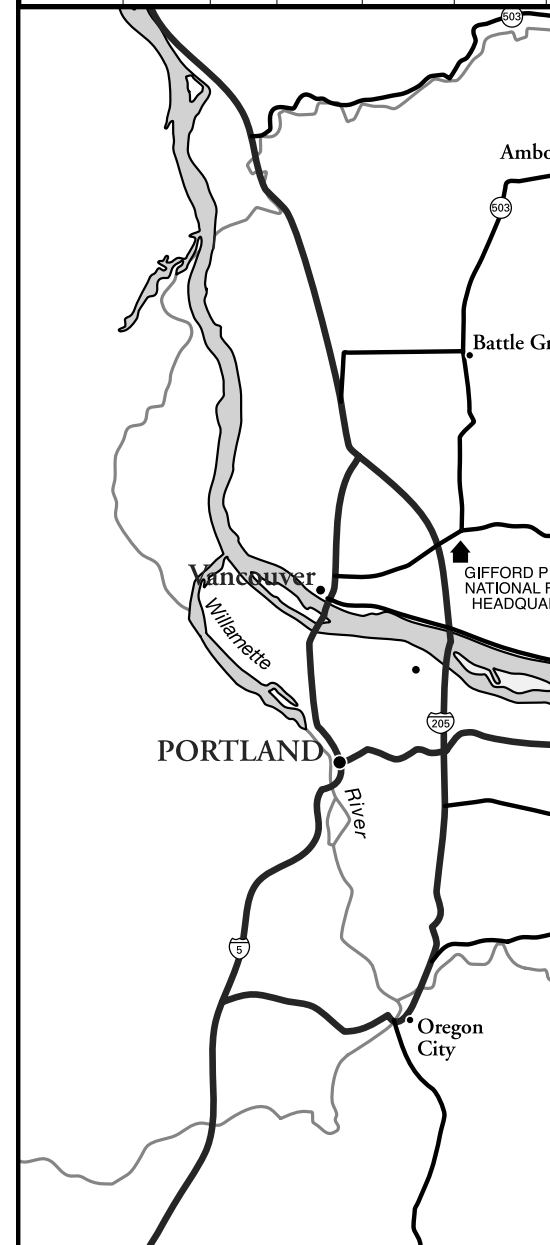
**12 Catherine Creek**, home to the Columbia River Gorge's newest multi-access trail, runs through the heart of a wildflower area. The trail is a 1-mile loop.

**13 The Klickitat River** flows into the Columbia at the town of **Lyle**. From here you can make a scenic loop drive. S.R. 142 traverses the rugged Klickitat River canyon through the town of Klickitat and ends at **Goldendale**; take S.R. 97 south back to S.R. 14 at the Columbia River.

**14 At Columbia Hills State Park**, you can swim, rock climb, boat and fish. To view the park's ancient pictographs and petroglyphs, call (509) 767-1159.

**15** The permanent collection at **Maryhill Museum** includes Auguste Rodin and Native American collections, the Romanian Queen Marie Gallery, a chess set collection and miniature French fashion mannequins. The museum, a mansion, was built in 1907 by visionary settler Sam Hill.

	Vancouver	Camas	Skamania	North Bonneville	Stevenson
Vancouver	0	11	29	39	42
Camas	11	0	18	28	31
Skamania	29	18	0	10	13
N Bonneville	39	28	10	0	3
Stevenson	42	31	13	3	0
Bingen					
W Salmon	64	53	35	25	22
Lyle	74	63	45	35	32
Wishram	94	83	65	55	52
Biggs	102	91	73	63	60



**16** You can camp, picnic, boat and fish at the **Deschutes River State Recreation Area**. It's noted for trout and steelhead fishing and white water rafting. Upriver from the park, you can see wagon wheel tracks of the **Oregon Trail**.

**17 The Dalles**, the first end of the **Oregon Trail**, is an agricultural center surrounded by cherry orchards and wheat fields. Visit the **Fort Dalles Historical Museum** or windsurf at **Riverfront Park**. The **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum**, at Crate's Point, tell the rich cultural and natural stories of the Columbia River Gorge. Interpreters, exhibits, information, café and a gift shop await you at this scenic site.



Dog Mountain by Peter Marbach

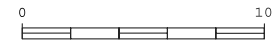
Distances			
Bingen	Lyle	Wishram	Biggs
64	74	94	102
53	63	83	91
35	45	65	73
25	35	55	63
22	32	52	60
0	10	30	38
10	0	20	28
30	20	0	8
38	28	8	0

# COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA



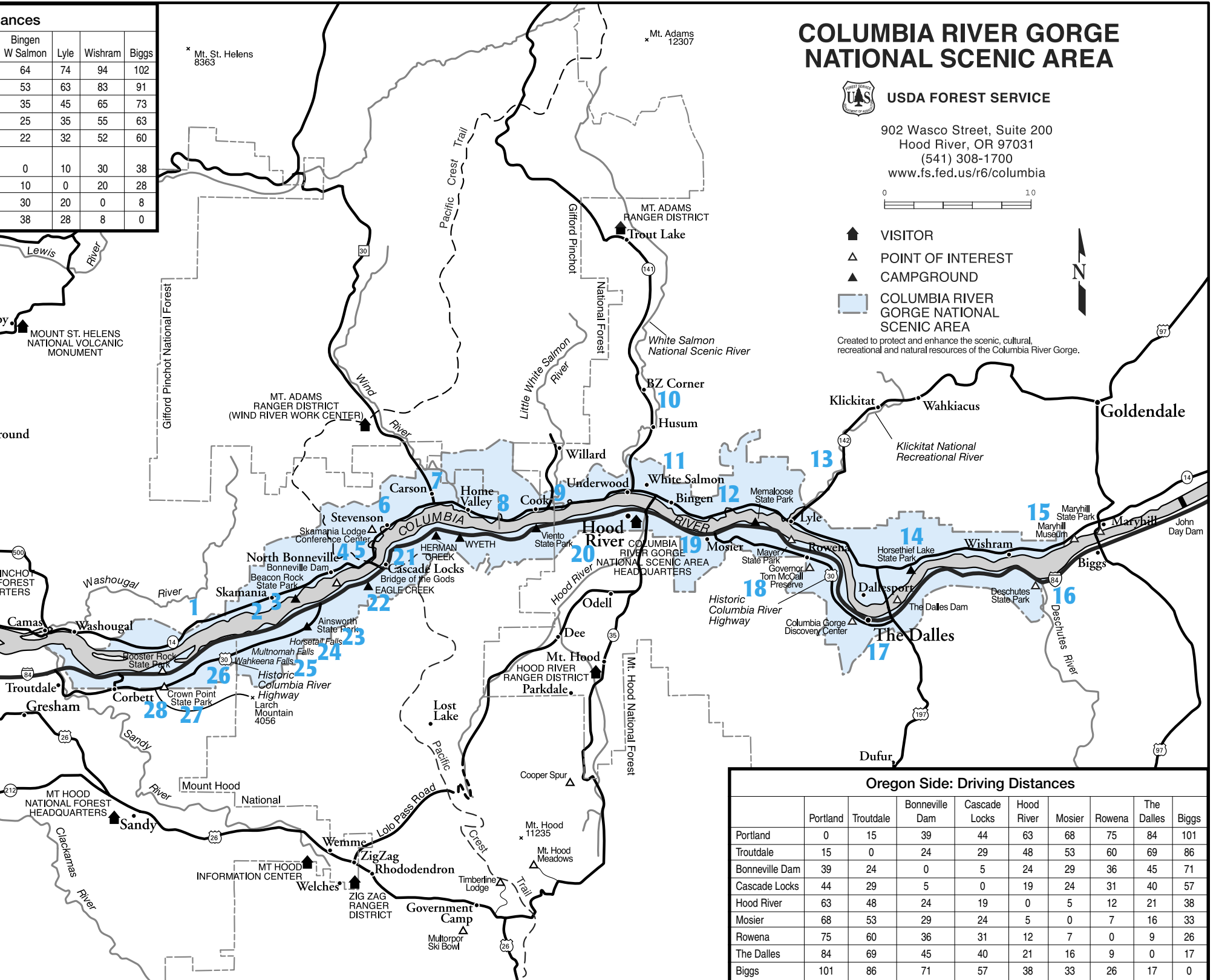
USDA FOREST SERVICE

902 Wasco Street, Suite 200  
Hood River, OR 97031  
(541) 308-1700  
www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia



- ▲ VISITOR
- △ POINT OF INTEREST
- ▲ CAMPGROUND
- COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

Created to protect and enhance the scenic, cultural, recreational and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge.



Oregon Side: Driving Distances

	Portland	Troutdale	Bonneville Dam	Cascade Locks	Hood River	Mosier	Rowena	The Dalles	Biggs
Portland	0	15	39	44	63	68	75	84	101
Troutdale	15	0	24	29	48	53	60	69	86
Bonneville Dam	39	24	0	5	24	29	36	45	71
Cascade Locks	44	29	5	0	19	24	31	40	57
Hood River	63	48	24	19	0	5	12	21	38
Mosier	68	53	29	24	5	0	7	16	33
Rowena	75	60	36	31	12	7	0	9	26
The Dalles	84	69	45	40	21	16	9	0	17
Biggs	101	86	71	57	38	33	26	17	0

**18** Between The Dalles and Mosier, the **Tom McCall Nature Preserve** crests a drivable section of the **Historic Columbia River Highway**. The nature preserve is a noteworthy wildflower area.

**19** From Mosier to Hood River, the **Historic Highway** and **Mosier Twin Tunnels** have been restored for non-motorized travel.

**20** **Hood River**, the windsurfing capital of North America, is also famous for fruit and produces over 1/3 of the nation's winter pears. The Hood River Valley and its orchards provide a spectacular gateway to **Mt. Hood** up Hwy 35.

**21** **Cascade Locks** is named after its navigation locks which moved ships past cascades in the river. The

locks have been unused since the cascades were covered by water pooled by the Bonneville Dam in 1937. At **Marine Park** is a Historical Museum and the **Sternwheeler, Columbia Gorge**. Excursions are available during the summer.

**22** **Eagle Creek Trail** (FS Trail #440) is chiseled into the cliffs above Eagle Creek. The trail passes **Metlako, Punch Bowl, Loowit and Tunnel Falls** before it joins the **Pacific Crest Trail**. Picnic areas and campgrounds are available.

**23** **Horsetail Falls Trail** (FS Trail #438), off the Historic Columbia River Highway, is a worthwhile effort. Start at **Horsetail Falls** and then pass through a chamber behind **Ponytail Falls**. Continue on

**Oneonta Gorge Trail** (FS Trail #424) to see **Oneonta Gorge, Oneonta Falls and Triple Falls**.

**24** **Oneonta Gorge**, a cool mossy canyon, is a unique botanical area. **Oneonta Trail** (FS Trail #424) follows this skinny gorge to its falls and beyond, joining other trails for loop hikes.

**25** **Multnomah Falls**, the second highest year-round waterfall in the United States, is two-tiered and drops 620 feet. A steep paved trail leads visitors to a platform above the falls. The waterfall is visually complimented by **Benson Bridge**, built in 1914 by Italian stone masons, and **Multnomah Falls Lodge** built in 1925. Inside the Lodge is a gift shop, restaurant and **U.S. Forest Service Information Center**.

**26** The waterfall area on the Historic Columbia River Highway west of Multnomah Falls includes **Latourel, Shepperds Dell, Bridal Veil, and Wahkeena**. **Wahkeena Falls Picnic Area** provides a picnic shelter, stone fireplace and access to Wahkeena Falls where cool mist refreshes you on summer days.

**27** **Crown Point State Park**, 733 feet above the Columbia River, commands a 30-mile view of the Gorge. **Vista House** is a beautiful, octagonal building built in 1916, where the Historic Columbia River Highway was dedicated. A visitor center and gift shop operate from May 1 to October 15.

**28** **Portland Women's Forum State Park** is an impressive viewpoint and famous photo opportunity on the Historic Columbia River Highway.

# Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

## What is the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act?

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), signed into law in December, 2004, allows federal land management agencies, such as the Forest Service, to continue investing in America's recreation future by charging modest fees at campgrounds, rental cabins and other high-impact recreation sites until December, 2014. The Act replaces the 1996 Recreation Fee Demonstration authority. Under the Act, the Forest Service will continue to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities that are free of charge.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area has reviewed all current recreation fee sites, services and facilities to determine if they meet specific requirements outlined in the Act. Based on that assessment, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area did not make any changes to the fee program.

For more information about the Recreation Fee program and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, please visit: [www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/recfee](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/recfee).

## How does the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act help recreation?

Implementing the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act helps the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area deliver high quality recreation services for the public over the next decade. Fees are only one part of a comprehensive recreation funding strategy, which includes congressionally-designated funds, volunteer assistance, interagency cooperation, partnerships, commercial operations, and funds leveraged from other sources. The majority of revenues will continue to be used for maintaining trails and trailheads, cleaning and maintaining recreation sites and restrooms, and to provide safety and security at recreation sites.

## Do you still need a Northwest Forest Pass?

The Northwest Forest Pass program will continue under the new legislation. In the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, only those sites listed on the right require Northwest Forest Passes.

Some trails in the Northwest are not managed by the Forest Service and thus do not require a Northwest Forest Pass. However, some of those trails may require fees. Contact the agency which manages the trail (National Park Service, Oregon State Parks, Washington State Parks) for fee and parking pass details. During the winter, some trailheads become Sno-Parks; Northwest Forest Passes are not valid in these areas.

## How much is a Northwest Forest Pass?

**Annual Pass: \$30.** Good for one year from the month and year of purchase. For example, a pass purchased May 10, 2005 would expire on May 31, 2006. Passes are interchangeable between vehicles in the same household.

**Day-use Pass: \$5.** Day passes must be self-validated prior to use. Day passes are no longer sold at a Golden Passport discount.

**Volunteers** who help maintain trails for two days may receive an annual pass in recognition of their contribution. Contact our office for information on volunteer opportunities.

**Indian Tribes:** Federally recognized tribes receive administrative passes upon request for access and use activities.

## Where can I get a Northwest Forest Pass?

**Local Businesses/Vendors:** Available at over 250 chambers of commerce, information centers, and stores in Oregon and Washington.

**Nature of the Northwest:** [www.naturenw.org](http://www.naturenw.org).  
**National Forest Foundation:** [www.natlforests.org](http://www.natlforests.org). Call toll-free 1-877-465-2727 weekdays, 6:00am to 6:00pm. (NFF also sells Golden Eagle Passports.)

**Northwest Forest Pass Information Line:** Call toll-free 1-800-270-7504, weekdays, 9-5:00pm

## Golden Passport Program

Golden Passports are accepted at all Northwest Forest Pass sites, plus all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sites charging entrance/use fees. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act will eventually merge current nation-wide interagency passes into one, which will be called the "America the Beautiful." In the meantime, current interagency passes, including the Golden Eagle Passport, Golden Age Passport, Golden Access Passport, and the National Parks Pass, will continue to be sold and honored.

**Golden Eagle Passport:** An annual pass which sells for \$65 and expires at the end of the purchase month of the following year. A **National Parks Pass** may be upgraded to a Golden Eagle Passport by purchasing a Golden Eagle Hologram stamp for an additional \$15 from all federal land management agencies that participate in the Golden Eagle program.



Wahclella Falls



**Golden Age Passport:** A lifetime pass available to citizens and permanent U.S. residents who are 62 years of age or older. This pass sells for a one-time \$10 fee, and offers some additional recreation discounts.

**Golden Access Passport:** A free, lifetime pass available to citizens and permanent U.S. residents who have been medically determined to be blind or permanently disabled.

## Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass: "More Pass More Play"

The Washington and Oregon Recreation Pass, an annual day-use pass, is honored at all Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sites in Oregon and Washington as well as 26 Oregon State Parks, 20 Washington State Parks and 6 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreation sites. The pass sells for \$85 and is valid for one year.

## You need a Northwest Forest Pass to park at these National Forest Trailheads and Picnic Areas:

Bridge of the Gods  
Dog Mountain  
Eagle Creek  
Herman Creek  
Larch Mountain  
North Bonneville  
Sams Walker  
St. Cloud  
Wahclella  
Wyeth

**\$30 Annual Northwest Forest Pass**  
**\$5 Day-use Pass**

~

## Forest Service Fee Campgrounds:

Eagle Creek  
Herman Creek  
Wyeth  
Eagle Creek Overlook Group Site



# Gorgeous and Fun Northwest Forest Pass Trails



## Sams Walker Trail #4402

**Length/Elevation:** 1.1 miles/60 feet

**Seasons:** All

**Difficulty:** Universal access, Easy

**Attractions:** Wildflowers, wildlife, Columbia River and Horsetail Falls views, one picnic area.

**Access:** 10 miles west of Bonneville Dam on Washington State Route 14. Turn south on Skamania Landing Road and proceed 1/4 mile. The trailhead and parking lot are on west side of the road.

## Wahclella Trail #436

**Length/Elevation:** 1 mile/500 to 800 feet

**Seasons:** All

**Difficulty:** Easy to moderate

**Attractions:** Thunderouse Wahclella Falls, Wahclella Creek, fall colors.

**Access:** From I-84 east, take Bonneville Dam exit #40. Trailhead is well marked where the off-ramp meets Hwy 30.

## Herman Creek Trail #406

**Length/Elevation:** 11.2 miles/100 to 4240 feet

**Seasons:** Spring to mid-Winter

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Attractions:** Horses allowed. Explores largest old growth forest in the Columbia River Gorge. Features waterfalls, moss carpeted creeks, sub-alpine lake and vistas.



**Access:** From I-84 east, take Cascade Locks exit #44. Drive 1 mile through town and under I-84 to entrance ramp. Cross entrance ramp to frontage road and drive 1.6 miles to Herman Creek. Turn right into campground and follow road to trail.

## Wyeth Trail #441

**Length/Elevation:** 6.2 miles/200 to 3920 feet

**Seasons:** mid-Spring to late Fall

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Attractions:** North Lake, wildflowers and dense stands of fir and hemlock.

**Access:** I-84 take Wyeth exit #51. Turn west on Wyeth Road and drive into the campground. Trailhead is on the west side of the campground.

## Larch Mountain Trail #441

**Length/Elevation:** 6.8 miles/800 to 4056 feet

**Seasons:** mid-Spring to early Winter

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Attractions:** At Sherrard Point—panoramic view of Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood, Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Jefferson, Portland, the Gorge and Bull Run Watershed. Toilets are at Larch Mt. Picnic Ground.

**Access:** From I-84, take Corbett exit #22. Go up Corbett Hill, turn left on Hwy 30, drive 5 miles to Larch Mt. Road turnoff on the right. Take Larch Mt. Road for 14 miles to picnic ground and trailhead.

## Eagle Creek Trail #440

**Length/Elevation:** 13.2 miles/110 to 3360 feet

**Seasons:** Spring to late Fall.

**Difficulty:** Easy but may not be suitable for children since there are sheer cliffs without guard rails

**Attractions:** Some sections of trail carved into basalt cliffs, Punch Bowl Falls, High Bridge—150 feet above the creek, Tunnel Falls.

**Access:** From I-84 east, take exit #41. There's no westbound exit at Eagle Creek — exit at Bonneville Dam and backtrack on I-84 to exit #41.

## Dog Mountain Trail #147

**Length/Elevation:** 3.1 miles/60 to 2860 feet

**Seasons:** Spring to Fall

**Difficulty:** Most difficult

**Attractions:** Wildflowers and outstanding views of the Gorge.

**Access:** 13 miles east of Stevenson, WA on SR 14.

## Pacific Crest Trail #2000, south from Bridge of the Gods

**Length/Elevation:** NA / starts at 180 feet

**Seasons:** Spring to Fall

**Difficulty:** Depends on how far hiker goes.

**Attractions:** Junction with the Gorge Trail #400, Teakettle Spring (7.1 mi.), Wahtum Lake at Eagle Creek Trail junction (15.6 mi.), Indian Springs Campground (18.2 mi.), Ramona Falles (38.8 mi.), Timberline Lodge (49.4 mi.).

**Access:** From I-84, exit at Cascade Locks. Follow signs to Bridge of the Gods; park near the bridge. The trail starts to the south, across the road.

## Pacific Crest Trail #2000, north from Bonneville Trailhead

**Length/Elevation:** NA/starts at 180 feet

**Seasons:** Spring to Fall

**Difficulty:** Depends on how far hiker goes.

**Attractions:** Horse access, Gillette Lake (3.8mi.), spring near Table Mountain (9.7 mi.), spur trail to Three Corner Rock water trough (15.3 mi.), Rock Creek (20.3 mi.), Big Huckleberry Mountain summit trail (44.2 mi.).

**Access:** Trailhead is on the north side of S.R. 14 across from the second powerhouse of Bonneville Dam. From I-84, take Bridge of the Gods to WA, turn west on SR 14, drive about 2 miles to the trailhead.

### Theft from cars is a problem at trailheads and recreation areas!

- Do not leave valuables in your car.
- Do not leave belongings visible through car windows.

# Wild About Endemic Wildflowers!

endemic \en-dem-ik\ adj: restricted  
or peculiar to a locality or region



Balsam root with rainbow

Thanks to the Gorge's wide ranges of elevation and precipitation, a diverse collection of wildflowers thrive from the temperate rain forest at Oneonta Gorge (average annual precipitation 75 inches) to the grasslands at Celilo (average precipitation 12 inches).

Without a question, there is no place like the Gorge with its unique wildflowers. What would be a wildflower visit to the Gorge without a visit to see the area's endemics, species only found in the Columbia River Gorge and its vicinity. Listed below are when and where you can find some of these special plants:

**Barrett's Penstemon** (*Penstemon barrettiae*):

A member of the figwort family, this 8-24 inch pink wildflower is found in rocky areas, talus slopes and cliffs between Hood River and Lyle, mostly at low elevations.

Early-mid May: Cliffs along the Historic Columbia River Highway east of Hood River; County Rd. 1230 in Bingen.



**Columbia Gorge Daisy** (*Erigeron oreganus*):

The thin, white petals of this flower, which generally grows on the Oregon side, can be found under overhanging basalt cliffs in the west end of the Gorge.

Mid-June: Oneonta Gorge, Latourell Falls, and McCord Creek Falls.

**Oregon Sullivantia** (*Sullivantia oregana*):

These delicate, white flowers can be viewed at wet cliffs near waterfalls at low elevations in the west end of the Gorge on the Oregon side.

Early July: Multnomah Falls.

**Smooth-leaf Douglasia** (*Douglasia laevigata* var. *laevigata*):

The blush pink petals of the Douglasia blossom grow along basalt cliffs and rock outcrops at low to middle elevations between Crown and Mitchell Point.

Late March-early April: I-84 at Mitchell Point

Early April: Trail to top of McCord Creek Falls.

**Long-Beard Hawkweed** (*Hieracium longiberbe*):

The vibrant, yellow, chicory blossoms of this hawkweed thrive on both cliffs and rocky slopes at all elevations in the west and

middle sections of the Gorge.

Mid-June: Columbia River shore at Wyeth

Late June-early July: Historic Highway at

Multnomah Falls and Shepperd's Dell

Mid-July: Top of Angel's Rest.

**Howell's Daisy** (*Erigeron howellii*): On the Oregon side, the rocky slopes facing north or east at all elevations in the west Gorge host these white-petaled daisies.

Late May: Multnomah Falls

Early July: Top of Larch Mountain.

**Columbia Kittenail** (*Synthyris stellata*): This delicate blue Kittenail is found on north facing shaded banks, cliffs, and ridges in the west Gorge, chiefly on the Oregon side.

Late March-early April: Historic Columbia River Highway from Wahkeena Falls to Horsetail Falls.

**Suksdorf's Desert Parsley** (*Lomatium suksdorfii*): This 2-6 foot yellow burst of blossom grows in grasslands or open woods at middle to high elevations between the Little White Salmon River and The Dalles.

Late April-early May: Upper section of the

Chenoweth Road, Major Creek Road

Late May-early June: Top of Nestor Peak.

**Smooth Desert Parsley** (*Lomatium laevigatum*): This wildflower looks similar to the Suksdorf Desert Parsley, but is only 6-24 inches high. At low elevations, it grows in open, rocky areas and basalt cliffs along the Columbia River, east of The Dalles.

Early March: Rocky shores of the Columbia

River near The Dalles Dam Visitor Center

Mid-March: Cliffs at the east edge of Wishram

Late March-early April: Cliffs at the north end of the US 97 Bridge.

**Columbia Desert Parsley** (*Lomatium columbianum*):

This 12-30 inch parsley resembles the Smooth

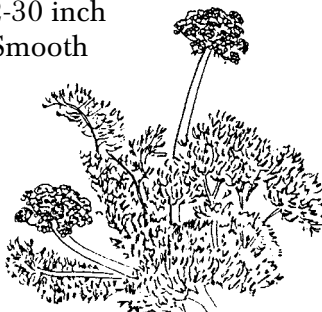
Desert Parsley, but its

petals are bright, rich

pink, and it's found

along open slopes

between the Little White Salmon River and The Dalles.



Mid-March: SR 14 east of Lyle (MP 77-81), Historic Columbia River Highway, and I-84 east of Memaloose State Park.

Mid-May: Near the top of Monte Carlo.

**Columbia Gorge Broad-Leaf Lupine** (*Lupinus latifolius* var. *thompsonianus*): Found in open woods and grasslands in the eastern Gorge, these elegant bunches of lavender pea petals thrive mainly on the Washington side. Late April: Old highway at Rowland Lake, SR 14 at The Dalles Bridge Road (US 197) junction. Late May: The Dalles Mountain Road, mostly at the top.

**Poet's Shooting Star** (*Dodecatheon*

*poeticum*): These fuschia and yellow flowers, with petals looking as if they are turned inside-out, grow on open or lightly-wooded, moist slopes and along streams between Dog Mountain and Horsethief Butte.

Late March-Early April:

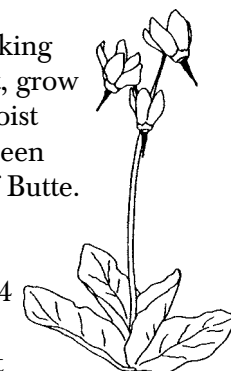
Memaloose Viewpoint, Tom

McCall Nature Preserve, SR 14

east of Lyle Tunnel (MP 77-81)

Mid-April: Dry Creek Road at

MP 3-4.



**Hood River Milk-Vetch** (*Astragalus hoodianus*): The cream-colored, long and thin petals of the milk-vetch grow in open or lightly wooded areas at low to middle elevations between the White Salmon Wild and Scenic River and Horsethief Lake State Park.

Late April-early May: US 30 at the west edge

of Mayer State Park (MP 6.5), SR 14 near The

Dalles Bridge Road (US 197) junction.

Mid-May: Hood River Mountain Meadow.

**The Dalles Mountain Buttercup** (*Ranunculus*

*reconditus*): These yellow-petaled flowers bloom in open grasslands on top of the Columbia Hills in Washington and similar areas near the heads of Mill Creek and Mosier Creek in Oregon.

Early-mid March: The Dalles Mountain Road.

For more wildflower information, pick up a copy of *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge* by Russ Jolley.

# National Forest Campgrounds

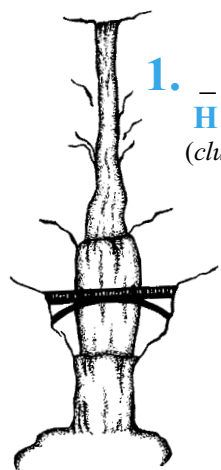
U.S. Forest Service Campground	Campground Location	State	Barrier Free Facilities	Camp Sites	Use Fee	Drinking Water	Maximum Trailer Size	Notes & Special Activities	Campgrounds are usually open May – mid-October
Beaver	12.2 miles N off Hwy 14 at Carson, on Wind River Hwy.	WA	No	19	\$13-15-26	Yes	25'	Fishing, hiking, mushroom picking	
Beaver Group Camp	Forest Rd. 30	WA	No	2	\$90-95	Yes	25'	Up to 100 people; reservations required	
Cloud Cap	20 miles S of Parkdale. Cooper Spur Road	OR	No	3	\$10	Yes	NA	Views, access to Mt. Hood Wilderness & Timberline Trail, no trailers or RVs	
Eagle Creek	Eastbound access off I-84 exit 41 Westbound exit 40 & circle back east	OR	Yes	20	\$10	Yes	22'	Hiking. Oldest Forest Service campground in the National Forest system	
Eagle Creek Overlook	Same as above	OR	No	1 1 group	\$50 weekdays \$90 weekends	Yes	22'	Group camping up to 75 people, reservations required: 541-308-1712	
Eight Mile Crossing	16 miles W of Dufur, 10 miles E of Hwy 35 on Road 44	OR	Yes	21	\$10	No	30'	Fishing, hiking, picnicking	
Gibson Prairie Horse Camp	18 miles E of community of Mt. Hood	OR	No	4	\$10	No		Trail riding, water for horses	
Goose Lake (R)	20 miles N of Hwy 14 on Forest Rd 60	WA	No	26	\$13-15	No	18'	Fishing & lava field	
Herman Creek Horse Camp	Off I-84 at Herman Creek	OR	No	7	\$8	Yes		Trail riding	
Knebel Springs	Road 1720, off Road 44, east of Parkdale	OR	No	8	\$10	No		Mountain biking	
Lost Lake	20 miles west of Parkdale Road 13	OR	Yes	125	\$18-25 Groups \$35-45	Yes	32'	Boating, fishing, hiking Mt. Hood view, concessionaire	
Moss Creek (R)	Road 18 off Hwy 14 through Willard. 8 miles N.	WA	Yes	17	\$13	Yes	32'	Fishing & old growth	
Oklahoma (R)	Road 18 off Hwy 14 through Willard. 16 miles N.	WA	Yes	23	\$13	Yes	22'	Fishing & hiking	
Panther Creek (R)	9 miles N off Hwy 14 at Carson, on Wind River Hwy; right on Old State Road; left at Forest Road 65	WA	No	33	\$13-26	Yes	25'	Fishing, hiking, sightseeing	
Paradise Creek (R)	20.5 miles N off Hwy 14 at Carson, on Wind River Hwy	WA	Yes	42	\$13-26	Yes	25'	Fishing, hiking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing	
Peterson Prairie (R)	Forest Road 24 off Hwy 141, 7 miles W of Trout Lake	WA	Yes	30	\$13-26	Yes	32'	Berry picking & hiking	
Peterson Prairie Group Camp (R)	See above	WA	Yes	1	\$36-66	Yes	32'	Berry picking & hiking, reservations required	
Nottingham	14 miles S of community of Mt. Hood on Hwy 35	OR	Yes	23	\$10-12	No	32'	Stream fishing & hiking	
Rock Creek Reservoir (R)	7 miles W of Wamic off Road 48 to 4820	OR	Yes	33	\$12-14	Yes	26'	Boat launch (no motors), fishing, fitness trail, access to Barlow Road	
Sherwood	8 miles S of community of Mt. Hood	OR	Yes	14	\$10	No	16'	Stream fishing & hiking	
Tilly Jane	20 miles S of Parkdale, Cooper Spur Road	OR	No	14	\$10	No	NA	Hiking & historic site, no trailers or RVs	
Wyeth	I-84 to exit 51 E of Cascade Locks	OR	Yes	16	\$10-15	Yes	32'	Hiking & scenic vistas, 3 group sites	

(R) = Call toll-free for reservations: (877) 444-6777



## Unscramble the Letters . . .

Circle pictures of things you might see in the Gorge!



1. **HAMNOTLMU LLASF**  
(clue: most famous water drop in the Gorge)



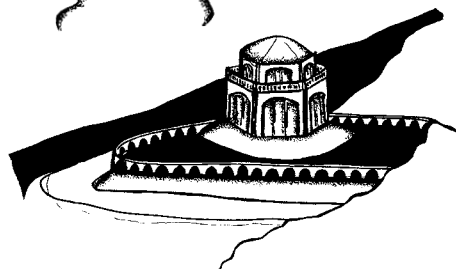
2. **TAIGN NAPAD**  
(clue: they are not a toy)



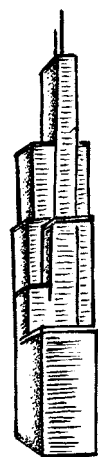
6. **GORTEPHYPSL**  
(clue: ancient rock drawings)



7. **FINDERSWUR**  
(clue: like the wind and water)



4. **AITVS EUOSH**  
(clue: you can see for miles)



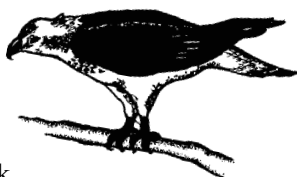
3. **RAESS WEROT**  
(clue: tallest building in the world)



8. **ETH MAOLA**  
(clue: a historic mission)



9. **RUTIF ARCDORHS**  
(clue: they grow yummy things)



5. **REYSOP**  
(clue: they wear a black mask and fly high above the land)

### Discovering the Columbia Gorge Resources

- Place an "S" on the objects that are scenic resources.
- Place a "C" on the objects that are cultural resources.
- Place an "R" on the objects that are recreational resources.
- Place an "N" on the objects that are natural resources.
- Place an "E" on the objects which are economic resources.

# Additional Resources for More Information

*We hope Gorge Vistas has helped you to plan a delightful trip through the Gorge.*

**The National Forests north and south of the Columbia River Gorge are chock full of additional, exciting places to visit.**

**We're here to help you make this trip the one to drive your friends crazy talking about when you return home! Let us help plan your visit by providing maps, brochures, tour information and directions.**

## Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

**USDA Forest Service** (541) 308-1700  
902 Wasco Street, Suite 200 • Hood River, OR 97031  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia)

**Skamania Lodge Forest Service Activities Center** (509) 427-2528  
1131 Skamania Lodge Drive • Stevenson, WA 98648

**Multnomah Falls Forest Service Information Center** (503) 695-2372

## Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

**Forest Headquarters** (503) 668-1700  
16400 Champion Way • Sandy, OR 97055  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood)

**Hood River Ranger District** (541) 352-6002  
6780 Highway 35 South • Mt. Hood-Parkdale, OR 97041

**Barlow Ranger District** (541) 467-2291  
P.O. Box 67 • Dufur, OR 97021

## Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington

**Forest Headquarters** (360) 891-5000  
10600 N.E. 51st Circle • Vancouver, WA 98682  
[www.fs.fed.us/gpnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf)

**Mt. Adams Ranger District** (509) 395-3400  
2455 Highway 141 • Trout Lake, WA 98650

## Columbia River Gorge Commission

P.O. Box 730 • White Salmon, WA 98672 (509) 493-3323  
[www.gorgecommission.org](http://www.gorgecommission.org)

## Nature of the Northwest Information Center

800 N.E. Oregon Street, Room 177 • Portland, OR 97232 (503) 872-2750  
[www.naturenw.org](http://www.naturenw.org)

## State Campground Information

**Oregon & Washington State Parks** (800) 452-5687  
Information and Reservations or (503) 731-3411  
[www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org) • [www.parks.wa.gov](http://www.parks.wa.gov)

## Hunting and Fishing Information

**Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife** (503) 947-6000  
**Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife** (360) 696-6211  
[www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us) • [www.wdfw.wa.gov](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov)

## Wind and Weather Information

Information (541) 386-1336

## National Wildlife Refuges & Fish Hatcheries of the Columbia Gorge

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (509) 493-2934  
62301 SR14 • Underwood, WA 98651  
<http://gorgefish.fws.gov>

## Chambers of Commerce & Visitor Centers

**Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association** (800) 98-GORGE  
PO Box 271, N. Bonneville, WA 98639  
[www.crgva.org](http://www.crgva.org)

**Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce** (503) 665-1131  
701 NE Hood Street • Gresham, OR 97030  
[www.greshamchamber.org](http://www.greshamchamber.org)

**Bonneville Lock and Dam Visitor Center** (541) 374-8820  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • Cascade Locks, OR 97014-0150  
[www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/b)

**Cascade Locks Marine Park Visitor Center and Sternwheeler** (541) 374-8619  
P.O. Box 307 • Cascade Locks, OR 97014 • [www.sternwheeler.com](http://www.sternwheeler.com)

**Hood River County Chamber of Commerce & Information Center**  
405 Portway Avenue • Hood River, OR 97031 (541) 386-2000  
[www.hoodriver.org](http://www.hoodriver.org) (800) 366-3530

**The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce** (541) 296-2231  
404 W. Second Street • The Dalles, OR 97058 (800) 255-3385  
[www.thedallescchamber.com](http://www.thedallescchamber.com)

**The Dalles Lock and Dam Visitor Center and Train** (541) 296-9778  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • P.O. Box 564 • The Dalles, OR 97058  
[www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/d/standard/td/td.htm](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/d/standard/td/td.htm)

**West Columbia Gorge Chamber of Commerce** (503) 669-7473  
330 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy • Troutdale, OR 97060  
[www.columbiagorgechamber.com](http://www.columbiagorgechamber.com)

**Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce** (360) 834-2472  
P.O. Box 919 • 422 N.E. Forth Avenue  
Camas, WA 98607 • [www.cwchamber.com](http://www.cwchamber.com)

**Skamania County Chamber of Commerce** (509) 427-8911  
P.O. Box 1037 • 167 N.W. 2nd (800) 989-9178  
Stevenson WA 98648 • [www.skamania.org](http://www.skamania.org)

**Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce** (509) 493-3630  
P.O. Box 449 • White Salmon, WA 98672  
[www.mtadamschamber.com](http://www.mtadamschamber.com)

**Goldendale Chamber of Commerce** (509) 773-3400  
PO Box 524 • 903 E Broadway • Goldendale, WA 98620 (800) 785-1718  
[www.goldendalechamber.org](http://www.goldendalechamber.org)

**Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center** (509) 427-8211  
990 S.W. Rock Creek Drive • Stevenson, WA 98648  
[www.columbiagorge.org](http://www.columbiagorge.org)

**Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Wasco County Historical Museum** (541) 296-8600  
5000 Discovery Dr. • The Dalles, OR 97058  
[www.gorgediscovery.org](http://www.gorgediscovery.org)

*We are here to help you plan your trip so remember to stop by and say hello!*

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