

Discovery Areas

A Partnership in Progress: The in Quartzville Recreation Corridor and surrounding the Quartzville Back Country Byway are managed in partnership by several public land management agencies and as well as private land owners. If traveling the byway from Sweet Home, the first 12.5 miles is surrounded primarily by private land. Linn County manages most of the parks along Green Peter and Foster Reservoir, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages most of the dispersed use around the reservoirs. The next 12.5 miles is a mix of private forest lands, and public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salem District. The last 25 miles of the corridor is managed by the Sweet Home Ranger District and the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. In addition to the recreation opportunities the corridor offers, the byway is a great opportunity to drive through public lands with a wide variety of forest, management practices, and uses. Information about reaching these agencies is provided on the back of this brochure.

Green Peter Dam: In 1961, construction of Green Peter and Foster Dams began. They were completed in 1968 at an estimated cost of 82.3 million dollars. Both dams are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and since their construction, the dams have provided protection from an estimated 600 million dollars worth of potential flooding damage. Green Peter Dam is concrete structure approximately 327 feet in height and 1,500 feet in length. Behind the dam, Green Peter Reservoir extends over 10 miles in length providing for a variety of recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, and swimming.

A National Wild and Scenic River: In 1988 the U.S. Congress added the lower 9.6 miles of Quartzville Creek (beginning in the slack waters of Green Peter Reservoir and ending at Galena Creek) to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Quartzville Creek was recognized for the outstanding scenic driving, white water boating, and recreational mining opportunities it offers. The public lands along the designated segment are managed by the BLM to protect Quartzville Creek's free-flowing qualities and outstanding resource values.

Exploring Quartzville's Old Growth: Much of the older forest along the byway is managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service as part of a Late Successional Reserve (LSR's). These reserves were recently established by the Northwest Forest Plan to provide habitat to plant and animal species which are dependent on old-growth forest characteristics. Gazing at old growth forests as you drive along the corridor is great fun, but wandering amongst the giants can really ease the tensions of daily life. Whether you want to climb the ridges of old Cascade Mountains or walk into the Middle Santiam Wilderness, you can pick from several trails (see trail matrix) to do a little exploring.

Nature's Power: Whether its wind, water, snow or mud, the forces of nature are most profound when seen as damage to physical features. Floods in 1996 ripped through this drainage, causing millions of dollars in damage to

roads and other facilities. A windstorm in 1990 blew trees down in over 2000 acres in the headwaters of Quartzville and Pyramid Creeks. But the flood of 1969 is still one of the more recent events to beat. To get an idea of the power of this flood, stop at bridge #6 where you can still see the remains of the original concrete bridge. Take a minute to imagine the water levels needed to toss the old bridge aside.

Huckleberry Picking: late summer pulls locals and other visitors to the Quartzville area in search of wild berries. Four varieties (red, bigleaf, oval leaf, and Alaska) of huckleberries can be found in this area. Openings in old-growth forests nurture good berry patches, but don't overlook older harvest units where bushes grow dense from deer and elk browsing.

Managing Forests: Forests on public lands outside the LSR's are managed for a variety of uses including forest products, habitat, and the protection of water quality. Within the first 12 miles from State Highway 22, many of the stands you pass have been thinned at one time or another. Thinning is a way of helping forest grow by selectively removing some of the trees to reduce competition for sunlight, nutrients and water. Thinning can also increase tree vigor and health. Allowing more sunlight and moisture in the stand, helps undergrowth and can improve wildlife habitat for a variety of species. You'll see three kinds of thinning along the byway including pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning and partial cutting. Pre-commercial thinning occurs within 10 to 15 years after an area has been harvested and replanted, while commercial thinning occurs later when trees are larger and generally between 40 to 100 years old. Partial cutting is similar to commercial thinning, however, trees are often older than 100 years old. Partial cutting is a method that is utilized to increase the life of the stand and enhance habitat.

In addition the thinning, you may also notice that on some of the younger stands the lower third of the limbs on trees have been removed. This pruning reduces the development of knots and produces better quality wood. Western white pine is also pruned to help prevent the spread of white pine blister rust disease. When possible, thinning and pruning benefits are combined with the need for special forest products such as Christmas trees and boughs.

Wildfire's Legacy: At milepost 8 from State Highway 22, you can see several prominent features including Cub Point, Buck, Bachelor, and Coffin (named for its ominous box-like appearance) Mountains. With frequent lightning strikes, wildfire has played a key role in the natural processes within this region. Before suppression was actively practiced, wildfires were generally very intense (hot) and often burn large across the landscape. In the 1890's fires burned much of the area round these peaks, and the age of the stands you see on many of these mountain peaks today began from those fires. Buck Mountain burned a second time in 1967. The intensity of these fires combined with the shallow, rocky soils of most of the upper slopes have limited tree growth after the fires. Large stands of predominately noble fir, blankets most of the area previously burned. Huckleberries also thrive in open areas created by wildfire. Take a hike on the Mountain Trail and look for evidence of past fires.



Quartzville Recreation Corridor and Back Country Byway



United States
Department of
Interior



Bureau of Land
Management

Salem
District Office



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region

Willamette
National Forest

Welcome to the Quartzville Recreation Corridor and Back Country Byway

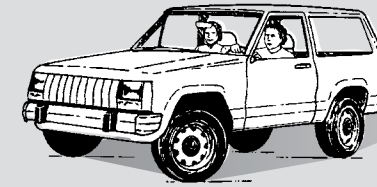
The Quartzville Back Country Byway leads you past the emerald depths of Green Peter Reservoir and along the clear, cool waters of Quartzville Creek National Wild and Scenic River. Discover a landscape of old-growth and maturing forests, accented by rock outcroppings, wildflowers, and vivid colors during the fall. Enjoy panoramic views of Cascade Range peaks including Mount Jefferson.



Getting There

The Quartzville Back Country Byway is approximately 50 miles in length and connects U.S. Highway 20, one mile east of Sweet Home and State Highway 22, 19 miles east of Detroit.

Know Before You Go...



Driving Conditions - Please Drive Carefully

The road is paved and varies from two lanes to one lane with turnouts. Most of the road is narrow and winding with two-way traffic.

Watch Out For:

- Truck traffic, fallen rocks, or wildlife on the road.
- Non-motorized uses such as bicycles and pedestrians.
- Slippery road conditions during wet or icy weather.
- Road closures during the winter and early spring due to snow. Check local conditions before starting your trip.

Plan Ahead:



Services: The closest full-service communities with food, gas, lodging and supplies are Detroit, Sisters, or Sweet Home.

Seasonal Driving Conditions:



Fall: Vivid fall colors accent the route. After mid-September, traffic is often low.



Winter: Much of the route at higher elevations is closed by snow.



Spring: Watch as spring leaves and wildflowers emerge. Traffic is often low to moderate.



Summer: Enjoy a variety of summer activities. Traffic is moderate to high.

For More Information Contact:

U.S. Forest Service
Detroit Ranger District
HC 73 Box 320
Mill City, OR 97360
(503) 854-3366

U.S. Forest Service
Sweet Home Ranger District
3225 Hwy. 20
Sweet Home, OR 97386
(541) 367-5168

Bureau of Land Management
Salem District
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306
(503) 375-5646

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mid-Willamette Valley Projects
P.O. Box 706
Foster, OR 97345
(541) 367-5127

Linn County Parks Department
3010 Ferry S.W.
Albany, OR 97321
(541) 967-3917

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You can make a difference in the Quartzville Recreation Corridor!

Please do your part to keep the Quartzville Recreation Corridor a safe and enjoyable place for everyone by following the guidelines listed below:

Camping . . .

Undeveloped Camping: Camping is allowed outside developed recreation sites on public lands in several areas within the corridor. Areas where undeveloped camping is not allowed are either blocked or signed as no camping.

Stay Limit: All of the federal land management agencies have a 14-day stay limit. For more information contact, the BLM, USFS, or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Protect Vegetation: You can collect downed dead wood for use while camping in the corridor.

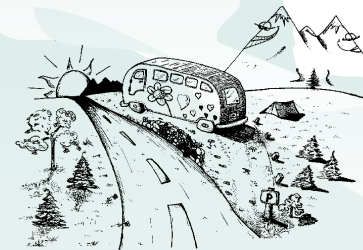
Cutting or carving live vegetation or standing dead trees is prohibited. Please use removable ropes instead of nails to hang things from trees and bring your own stakes and roasting sticks. Remember—scarring trees exposes them to insect infestation and disease.



Human Waste and Washing: Bringing your own self-contained portable toilet unit is the best way to reduce health hazards and potential water pollution. Otherwise, please bury human waste at least 100 feet from any water source, in a hole 6 inches deep and cover it with soil. Bury or pack out all toilet paper and pack out diapers. Bathing with soap and washing dishes or clothing must also be done at least 100 feet from any water source.



RV Dumping: Draining gray water or septic tanks is strictly prohibited except at facilities which provide such services. The closest RV dump station is in Sweet Home, so plan ahead.



Campfires . . .

Campfires: Reduce chances of wildfire by not leaving fires unattended, extinguishing fires before you leave, and obeying fire restrictions. Help keep fire rings clean by leaving out items such as glass, cans, diapers, or plastics.



Pack It Out . . .

Pack it Out: Pack out your personal property and garbage when leaving. Help keep the corridor beautiful by leaving it cleaner than you found it.

Be a Good Neighbor . . .

Firearms/Fireworks: The use of both firearms and fireworks in the corridor creates safety concerns for those around you. If you plan to target practice (including air rifles), find an area at least 1/2 mile from the byway. Use of fireworks is prohibited on federal lands.



Parking and Valuables: Avoid parking on narrow shoulders or blind corners. Keep your personal property safer by locking your vehicle and storing your valuables out of view.

Pets: Keep pets quiet and leashed to avoid disturbing people and wildlife. Your neighbors are here to enjoy nature's peace and quiet.

Thanks for your help and have a great visit!

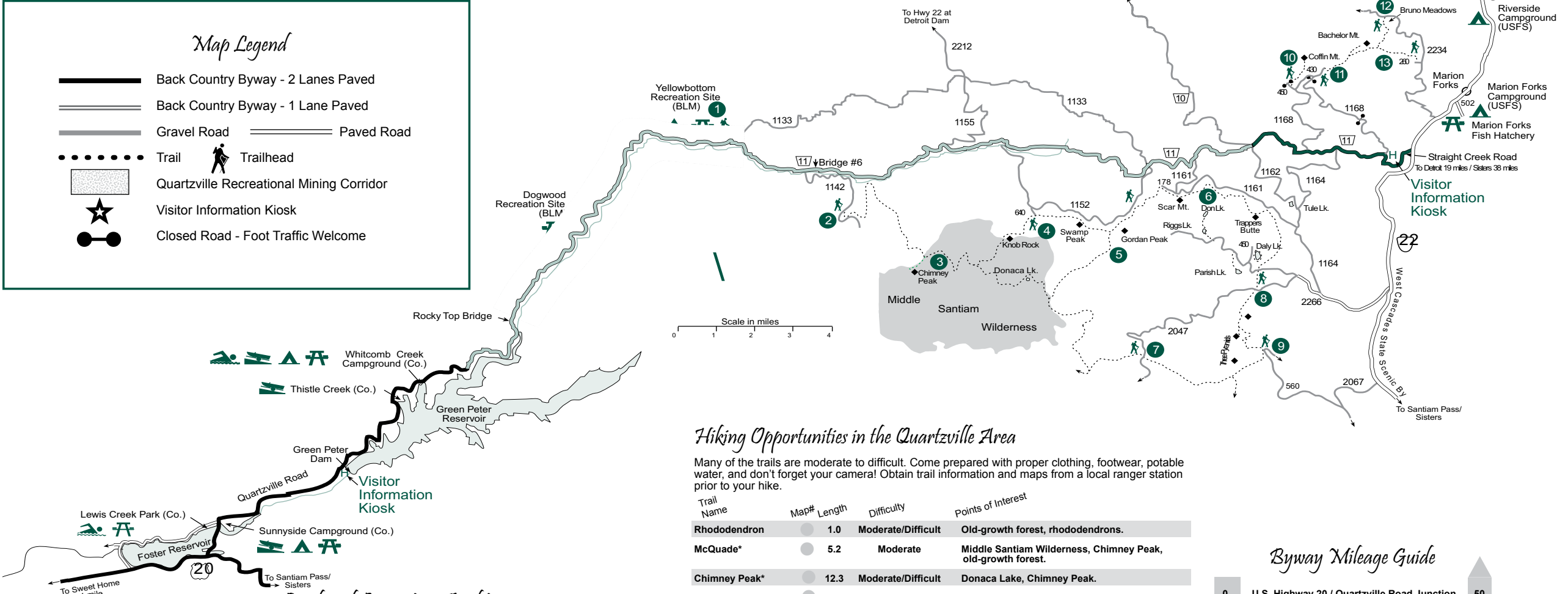


Illustrations by Nick Teague

Come Discover the Quartzville Recreation Corridor and Back Country Byway

Map Legend

- Back Country Byway - 2 Lanes Paved
- Back Country Byway - 1 Lane Paved
- Gravel Road Paved Road
- Trail Trailhead
- Quartzville Recreational Mining Corridor
- Visitor Information Kiosk
- Closed Road - Foot Traffic Welcome



Hiking Opportunities in the Quartzville Area

Many of the trails are moderate to difficult. Come prepared with proper clothing, footwear, potable water, and don't forget your camera! Obtain trail information and maps from a local ranger station prior to your hike.

Trail Name	Map#	Length	Difficulty	Points of Interest
Rhododendron	1	1.0	Moderate/Difficult	Old-growth forest, rhododendrons.
McQuade*	2	5.2	Moderate	Middle Santiam Wilderness, Chimney Peak, old-growth forest.
Chimney Peak*	3	12.3	Moderate/Difficult	Donaca Lake, Chimney Peak.
Swamp Peak*	4	6.1	Moderate	Middle Santiam Wilderness, Cascade peaks.
Gordan Peak*	5	4.6	Moderate	Middle Santiam Wilderness, Cascade peaks, old growth.
Scar Mountain*	6	8.9	Moderate	Cascade peaks and huckleberry picking.
South Pyramid Creek*	7	7.2	Moderate	Middle Santiam River, old-growth forest.
Three Pyramids*	8	2.1	Easy/Moderate	Three Pyramids, wildflowers.
Coffin Lookout*	9	1.5	Moderate/Difficult	Cascade peaks, staffed fire lookout during fire season, lookout area closes at dusk.
Bachelor Mountain*	10	1.9	Easy/Difficult	Former fire lookout with views of Cascade peaks, remnants of wildfire (snags).
Bruno Meadows	11	1.0	Easy/Moderate	Old-growth forest, rock gardens, wildflowers, wetland vegetation, views.
Bugaboo Ridge	13	2.5	Easy/Moderate	Old-growth forests at lower elevations, wildflowers, Cascade peaks.

* Trail Park Pass is required for these trails. Daily or annual passes may be purchased at National Forest Offices and participating local businesses in Sweet Home or Detroit.

Developed Recreation Facilities

Quartzville has a variety of developed camping, picnicking, and boating facilities. Most of these sites open in May and close in September. Check with local management agency about off-season use.

Recreation Facility	Fee	Camp Sites	Drinking water	Toilets	Comments
Lewis Creek (CO)	X	Day-use	Faucet	Flush (A)	Foster Reservoir, boat moorage available.
Sunnyside (CO)	X	165	Faucet	Flush (A)	X Showers, RV Hookups, Dump Station, and Group Facilities.
Whitcomb (CO)	X	39	Faucet	Vault (A)	X Swimming beach and easy access to Green Peter Reservoir.
Thistle Creek (CO)		Day-Use		Vault (A)	X Boat and vehicle parking.
Dogwood (BLM)		Day-Use		Vault (A)	Picnic sites and river frontage.
Yellowbottom (BLM)	X	22	Hand Pump	Vault (A)	Picnic sites, great swimming hole, and a hiking trail.
Riverside (USFS)	X	37	Faucet	Vault	Along scenic North Santiam River.
Marion Forks (USFS)	X	15	Faucet	Vault	Along Marion Creek next to fish hatchery. Hatchery tours available. Near Independence Rock Trail.

(A) = Accessible

Byway Mileage Guide

0	U.S. Highway 20 / Quartzville Road Junction	50
1	Sunnyside Campground	49
5	Visitor Information Kiosk / Green Peter Dam	45
9	Thistle Creek Boat Ramp	41
11	Whitcomb Creek Campground	39
18	Dogwood Recreation Site	32
24	Yellowbottom Recreation Site	26
28	Road 1142 / Trail Access	22
35/40	Road 1152 / Trail Access	15/10
42	Road 1161 / Trail Access	8
46	Road 1168 / Trail Access	4
49	Visitor Information Kiosk	1
50	State Highway 22 / Straight Creek Road Junction	0

Recreation Activities

The Quartzville Corridor offers more than a back country scenic drive. You may want to allow time to enjoy some of the great recreation opportunities the corridor provides. More information is available on the map or at the offices listed.



Camping/Picnicking: Both developed and undeveloped camping and picnicking opportunities are available in the corridor.



Swimming: Cool off in one of the many swimming holes on Quartzville Creek or in Green Peter Reservoir.



Fishing: Fish for trout in Quartzville Creek or trout and bass in Green Peter Reservoir. Be sure to carry your fishing license and comply with state fishing regulations.



Hiking: Explore one of the many trails near the byway that offer a variety of forest settings and scenic views. Be sure you have a Trail Park Pass where required (see hiking opportunities).



Boating: Green Peter Reservoir offers a variety of watercraft opportunities. Parking and camping is often limited, especially on the weekends.



Wildlife Viewing: You may catch glimpses of bald eagles, osprey, deer, squirrels, chipmunks, harlequin ducks, and other forest creatures. Please just observe and do not disturb.



Huckleberry Picking: Huckleberries can be found in several places along the Quartzville Byway.



Recreational Mining: Recreational mining and rock hounding are allowed along Quartzville Creek between Rocky Top Bridge and Galena Creek. Recreational mining guidelines are available from the BLM, Salem District Office.



Off-Highway Vehicle Use: Use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) is allowed on the Quartzville Byway if they are licensed for public streets. Otherwise, OHVs are limited to designated roads and trails. Contact local BLM and USFS offices for more information.

Quartzville Mining History

Jeremiah Driggs established the first legal claim in the Quartzville area on September 5, 1863. The Union and Santiam Companies were established and a tent city along with a few wooden structures sprang to life. Quartzville was named after the quartz rock formations found with the gold in the mines. Within four years, more than 500 mining claims were established and over a thousand people lived in Quartzville. The main access to Quartzville was from Gatesville (now the City of Gates), because the trip from Lebanon and Sweet Home was more difficult. By 1870, the inefficiency of the mills made large scale mining in the Quartzville area unprofitable and the town was abandoned.

In 1888, the Lawler and Medina companies resumed mining and two new towns (Anadiem and Bryant) were built. George Whitcomb started a post office and pack train to shuttle supplies to the miners, but by 1892 the towns were again abandoned.

Today the old Quartzville townsite is located on private land and has been reclaimed by nature. The Quartzville Recreational Mining Corridor (see map) still offers opportunities to pan for gold, much like the old-timers did.

