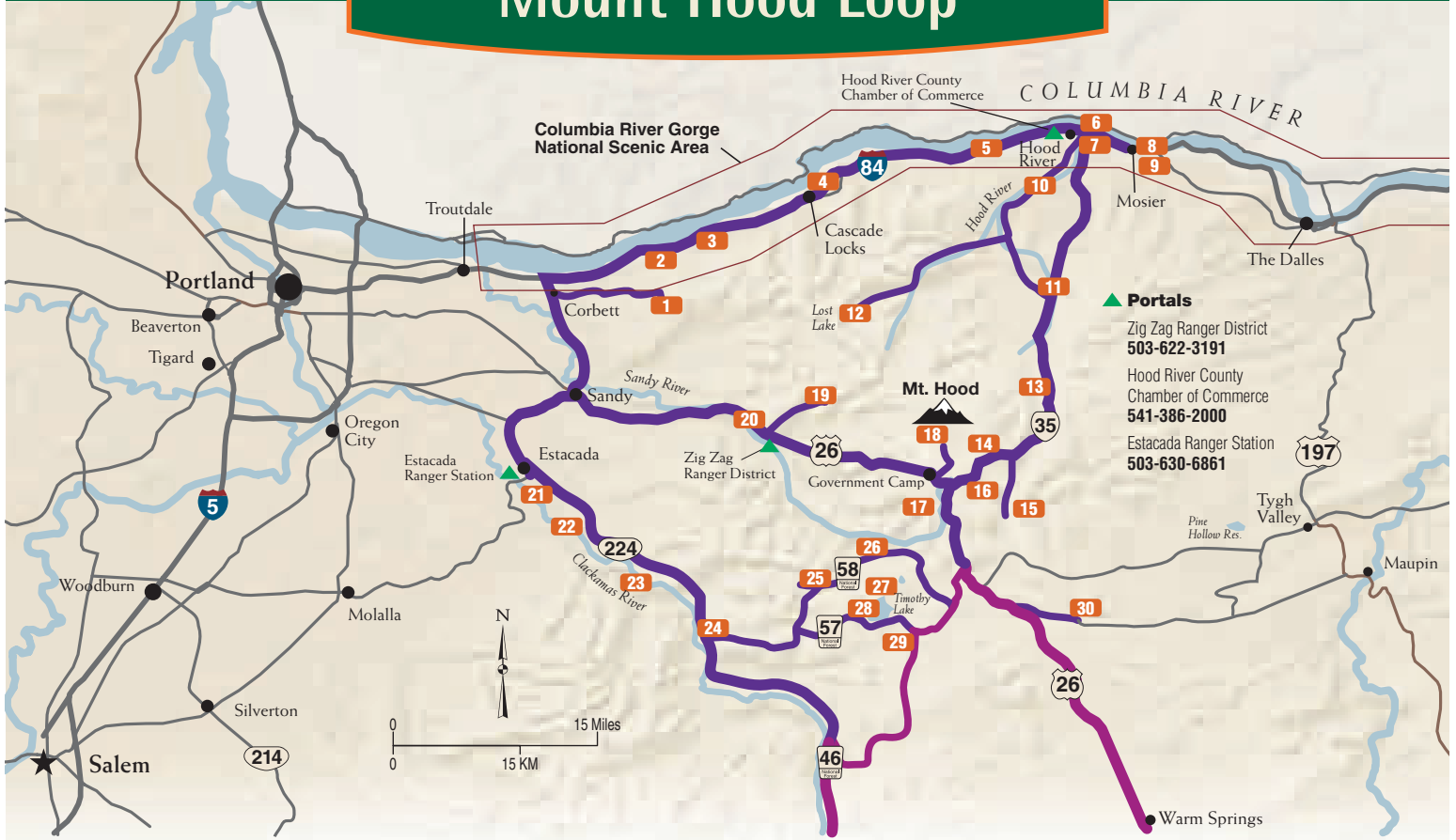


Mount Hood Loop



The Mt Hood Loop of the Oregon Cascades Birding Trail rises from the Columbia River to the base of Mt. Hood, the highest point in Oregon, and combines some of the best of the region's birding with legendary Oregon scenery. The Trail traverses the Columbia River National Scenic Area which is also the corridor traveled by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in 1805. Our Lewis's Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker and Clark's Grebe were named in their honor. Today, Osprey, Bald Eagle and waterfowl inhabit the river at Ainsworth and Viento State Parks and the Hood River Delta. On the northeast corner of the trail, tucked up against the "dry side" of Mt Hood, the Hood River Valley brims with productive fruit orchards, along with outstanding birding. Sites like Tucker and Tollbridge County Parks lead you along the Hood River and up the Cascade slope to Bonney Butte, one of Oregon's premiere raptor viewing locations. Higher elevation forests feature unique sites such as Little Crater Lake where Wilson's Snipe and Spotted Sandpiper nest, and the historic Clackamas Lake Ranger Station with its resident Red-breasted Sapsucker and nesting Olive-sided Flycatcher. Southwest of Mt. Hood, the Clackamas River cuts a long, steep canyon featuring Promontory Park and Fish Creek Campgrounds. Down the western flank of the mountain, the Zig Zag and Sandy Rivers lead you past Trillium Lake and through Wildwood Recreation Area; look here for Pileated Woodpecker and Band-tailed Pigeon.

1. Larch Mountain

Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. From I-84, Exit 22 (Corbett); S (uphill) 1.5 mi on Corbett Hill Road to Columbia River Historic Hwy; L for 2 mi to Larch Mountain Road; 14 mi to Larch Mountain.

Most accessible Cascades Range site to Portland; panoramic views of Columbia Gorge and Cascade peaks; paved trail to top; mature conifer forest and shrubby habitats; high elevation forest birds such as Hermit and Townsend's Warbler, Northern Pygmy-Owl, Steller's and Gray Jay, Rock Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Varied Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Blue Grouse, and Band-tailed Pigeon; Ruffed Grouse and Rufous Hummingbird occur around parking area and shrubby habitats; Common Nighthawk flies above forest on summer evenings.



Sponsor: Leupold & Stevens, Inc.

2. Angels Rest and Benson State Parks

Oregon State Parks. From I-84, east-bound Exit 28 (Bridal Veil); Angels Rest trailhead near exit, Benson 2 mi E; west-bound Exit 35 (Ainsworth State Park), 5 mi W on Historic Columbia River Hwy to Benson and 7 mi to Angels Rest.

Angels Rest is a steep and difficult climb through varied woodland habitats to two rock promontories overlooking the Columbia River; birds include Ruffed and Blue Grouse, Gray Jay, and Turkey Vulture. Benson has lowland riparian forest around lake with nesting Wood Duck, Warbling and Red-eyed Vireo, and Bullock's Oriole.



Sponsor: American Bird Conservancy

3. Ainsworth State Park

Oregon State Parks. From I-84, Exit 35 (Historic Hwy/Ainsworth State Park); W on Columbia River Historic Highway 1 mi.

Columbia River floodplain and upland mixed conifer forest with lush understory; resident Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, and Red-breasted Nuthatch; in spring and summer Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Warbler, and Hermit Warbler.



Sponsor: Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area

4. Government Cove

City of Cascade Locks. From I-84, westbound Exit 47 E of Cascade Locks; N 0.1 mi across railroad tracks to entrance; eastbound Exit 44; E on Hwy 30 (Wa Na Pa Street) for 1 mi; E on Forest Lane for 2 mi; E for 0.9 mi and cross I-84 overpass; bear left and yield; N 0.1 mi under I-84 overpass; cross railroad tracks to entrance.

Historic area with sheltered cove along Columbia River; old rock quarry and slough surrounded by hardwood trees; hosts wintering waterfowl, migrating songbirds and nesting Purple Martin and Tree Swallow in old pilings; look for Bald Eagle and Osprey.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

5. Viento State Park

Oregon State Parks. From I-84, Exit 56; 8 mi W of Hood River.

Migrant songbirds forage in broadleaf trees in spring; flowering fruit trees attract hummingbirds; along Columbia River look for wintering waterfowl.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

6. Mouth of Hood River

City of Hood River, Port of Hood River. From I-84, Exit 63 (Hood River City Center); N 0.1 mi on 2nd Street; E 0.1 mi at T-intersection; N at stop sign towards "Visitor Information" sign; W along Portway Ave for 0.5 mi; at "Oregon Visitor Information" sign and entrance to Hood River Expo Center, N on gravel road and into park; 0.3 mi to turnaround at The Hook.

Sand/gravel bar at mouth of Hood River; migration stop for shorebirds and concentration point for resting terns, gulls, sea-ducks, waterfowl, Peregrine Falcon, and Bald Eagle. Downstream from mouth of Hood River 0.3-mi, "The Hook" is a land peninsula that surrounds a backwater slough of Columbia River; surrounded by cottonwood trees; wintering waterfowl and Bald Eagle; both sites busy during summer months with wind-surfers.



Sponsor: Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

7. Twin Tunnels – Hood River

Oregon State Parks. From I-84, Exit 64 (Mt. Hood Hwy/White Salmon); S on Hwy 35 for 0.3 mi; E on Old Columbia River Drive for 1.2 mi.

Hood River entrance of 4-mi paved trail between Hood River and Mosier along restored Old Columbia Highway; Mark O. Hatfield Visitors Center; mixed conifer and hardwood forest with ferns, big-leaf maple, Douglas-fir, and standing dead trees; nesting Olive-sided Flycatcher near entrance along with Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, and Brown Creeper; wintering Hermit Thrush and Canyon Wren.



Sponsor: Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

8. Mosier Waterfront Park

City of Mosier, Oregon Department of Transportation. From I-84, Exit 69; L on Rock Creek Rd; at 500 yards R into gravel parking area; road off parking area goes under railroad overpass into park.

Five miles of urban walking trails through wetland and upland habitats in wet-dry transition zone; resident birds include Great Blue Heron, Bald and Golden Eagles, Osprey, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Anna's and Calliope Hummingbird, Cliff Swallow, and Vaux's Swift.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

9. Twin Tunnels – Mosier

City of Mosier. From I-84, Exit 69; westbound turn L and cross under freeway; eastbound turn R; L on Rock Creek Rd; less than 0.5 mi to parking area.

Mosier entrance of 4-mi paved trail route between Hood River and Mosier along restored Old Columbia Highway; mixed conifer forest, oak woodlands, grasslands, and basalt rock outcrops; Ash-throated Flycatcher regular near entrance.



10. Tucker County Park

Hood River County. From I-84, Exit 62 (W Hood River); S and curve E on Oak Street (Hwy 30 E) for 1.3 mi; at light, S on 13th Street (Tucker Road) for 5.5 mi.

Riparian hardwoods and shrubs, oak, and mixed conifer forest along Hood River; resident Bushtit Golden-crowned Kinglet; American Dipper, Harlequin Duck, and Belted Kingfisher in or near water.



Sponsor: Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

11. Tollbridge County Park

Hood River County. From Hwy 35, 12 mi S of Hood River; W on Tollbridge Road for 0.5 mi.

Riparian forest with large conifers and cottonwood trees along E Fork Hood River; good for spring migrant songbirds; look in river for American Dipper



PHOTO BY KEVIN SMITH

Black-capped Chickadee



PHOTO BY TERRY R STEELE

Clark's Nutcracker



PHOTO BY TERRY R STEELE

Black-throated Gray Warbler

BIRDING TIP

Each participant should have their own binoculars. Binoculars with 7 or 8 magnification and outer lenses at least 35mm diameter will help you locate birds more easily. When you see a bird, lock your eyesight onto the bird, note any features of reference near the bird, and bring your binoculars up to your eyes.

and Common Merganser; Harlequin Duck also possible.



Sponsor: Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

12. Lost Lake

Mt Hood NF, Hood River RD. *From Hood River, Hwy 35 S for 12 mi; W on Woodworth Dr; go to Dee Hwy (Tucker Road) making a R; follow to Dee; take Lost Lake Rd which changes to FR 13 to lake.*

Popular recreation destination; 3.2-mi lakeshore trail; riparian and lake habitats, aspen and cedar groves, coniferous forest including old-growth; Spotted Sandpiper and Great-blue Heron along shoreline, Osprey and Bald Eagle over lake, swallows foraging above water, and Vaux's Swift nesting in dead trees near lake; Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadee, Red Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Townsend's, Hermit, and Yellow-rumped Warbler in forest.



Sponsor: Hood River County Chamber of Commerce

13. Tamanawas Falls Trail

Mt Hood NF, Hood River RD. *On Hwy 35, approx 25 mi S of Hood River; 1.5 m N of intersection with FR 44. Falls are 100 feet high and 40 feet wide; accessed by hiking 2-mi Tamanawas Trail; trailhead footbridge is midpoint of 8-mi stretch of river hosting nesting Harlequin Duck; riparian habitat and mature mixed-conifer forest along trail to falls; American Dipper and Belted Kingfisher common along river; songbirds*

such as Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warbler, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet migrate through river corridor.



Sponsor: American Bird Conservancy

14. Hood River Meadows/Sahalie Falls

Mt Hood NF, Hood River RD. *From Hwy 35, approx 30 mi N of Hood River, W on FR 3545 for 0.5 mi; L to Hood River Meadows and Sahalie Falls.*

Sahalie Falls Loop is a portion of historic Mount Hood Loop Highway completed in 1924; passes by Hood River Meadows, over Meadows Creek, and past Sahalie Falls; old stone bridge below falls with beautiful view; high elevation mixed conifer forest and wet, brushy meadow; bird species in meadows include Lincoln's and White-crowned Sparrow, and Orange-crowned and MacGillivray's Warbler; forest species include Gray Jay, Swainson's Thrush, Winter Wren, and Golden-crowned Kinglet.



Sponsor: Leupold & Stevens, Inc.

15. Bonney Butte

Mt Hood NF, Hood River RD. *From Hwy 35, E on FR 48 at White River East Sno-Park for 7 mi; L on FR 4890 (paved) 3.7 mi and L on FR 4891; THIS IS A ROUGH AND ROCKY ROAD, ONLY HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES ARE RECOMMENDED; after 2 mi, park opposite 4890-130 spur (gated) and walk up 130 spur to observation point at top of butte (about 0.5 mi).*

A Hawk Watch International fall

migration site during September and October; panoramic vantage point to view migrating hawks and eagles; large numbers of Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Red-tailed Hawk; other migrants include Common Raven, Clark's Nutcracker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Lewis's Woodpecker, and Vaux's Swift.



Sponsor: Leupold & Stevens, Inc.

16. Devils Half-Acre Meadow

Mt Hood NF, Hood River RD. *From Hwy 35, W on FR3531 at Barlow Pass at Barlow Road/Pacific Crest Trail sign; 0.1 mi and L on FR 3530 (narrow, dirt road going downhill); 0.5 mi to meadow; NOTE: high clearance vehicle recommended for last 0.5 mi.*

Along historic Barlow Road used by pioneers to cross Mt Hood; high-elevation wet meadow with brushy alder and willow in wetland surrounded by conifer forest; excellent for fall migrant songbirds; best in mid-August to late September; good for warblers, especially MacGillivray's, Wilson's, Orange-crowned, and Yellow-rumped; Lincoln Sparrow breeds in meadow; Hammond's Flycatcher relatively common nester in forest.



Sponsor: American Bird Conservancy

17. Trillium Lake

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. *From Government Camp on Hwy 26; E for 1.8 mi; S for 2 mi on FR 2650.*

Trail with boardwalk around lake; best birding at N end of lake where trail meanders through forest and wetlands. Birds include Common Yellowthroat, Tree and Violet-green Swallow, and Wilson's, MacGillivray's, Hermit, and Townsend's Warbler; on the lake look for Ring-necked Duck and occasional Bald Eagle or Osprey; representative forest birds include Gray and Steller's Jay, and Hermit, Varied, and Swainson's Thrushes; watch for snow until June.



Sponsor: Leupold & Stevens, Inc.

18. Timberline Lodge

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. *From Government Camp on Hwy 26; E for 0.2 mi; N for 6 mi on Timberline Road to lodge.*

Rich, historic site providing only opportunity in Cascades to drive to an alpine area on a paved road; extensive tourist and recreation traffic in summer; to explore higher slopes on Mt. Hood take chair lift ride; Gray-crowned Rosy Finch in rocky areas or at edge of snowfields; Horned Lark in alpine meadows; Mountain Chickadee in conifer trees; occasional Cassin's Finch; Clark's Nutcracker and Common Raven around parking lot; Mountain Bluebird and White-crowned Sparrow regular in summer; all seen from inside lodge windows with Mt. Hood in background; Forest Service interpretive programs.



Sponsor: Mt Hood National Forest

19. Lost Creek Campground/Nature Trail & Old Maid Flats

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. *From Hwy 26, 18 mi E of Sandy; L on FR 18 (Lolo Pass Rd) directly across from Zigzag Ranger Station; after approximately 4 mi R onto FR 1828; 0.6 mi and bear R across bridge on FR 1825; bird in Lodgepole forest along road (Old Maid Flats) or continue until road ends at campground.*

Old Maid Flats formed by a mudflow off W flank of Mt. Hood 250 years ago; open stand of lodgepole pine with pockets of huckleberry, understory of moss and ferns; breeding populations of Hammond's Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush and Western Tanager; Lost Creek Campground has paved, accessible trail along creek through dense mature mixed conifer forest; look for Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Varied and Swainson's Thrushes; spur off main loop parallels creek through brushy habitats along a boardwalk; look for Rufous Hummingbird, MacGillivray's, Yellow, and Nashville Warblers; beaver pond may host herons and mallards.



Sponsor: American Bird Conservancy



Northern Goshawk

PHOTO BY KEVIN SMITH

20. Wildwood Recreation Area

Bureau of Land Management, Salem District. On Hwy 26, 15 mi E of Sandy and 2 mi W of Welches on S side of road.

Popular recreation area bordering Salmon River, a National Wild and Scenic River; mixed conifer and hardwood forest, freshwater wetland, and riparian forest; Harlequin Duck, Common Merganser, American Dipper, Spotted Sandpiper, and Belted Kingfisher along Salmon River; wetland boardwalk trail offers opportunities to see Wood Duck, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Yellowthroat; characteristic forest birds include resident Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter Wren, Steller's Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pileated Woodpecker, and Varied Thrush; nesting species include Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, and Wilson's, Hermit, and Black-throated Gray Warblers.



Sponsor: Bureau of Land Management

21. Faraday Lake

Portland General Electric Corporation. On Hwy 224, 1.0 mi SE of Estacada at Faraday Hydroelectric Project; foot-bridge leads across river to lake.

Small diversion lake; adjacent mixed conifer forest good for spring migrant songbirds; variety of common waterfowl on lake.



Sponsor: Clackamas County Tourism

22. Promontory Park

Mt Hood NF, Estacada RD. On Hwy 224, 6.4 mi SE of Estacada; entrance on R. Steep-sided canyon along river; Osprey and Bald Eagle forage in calmer waters; Common Merganser in swifter current; forest birds include Steller's Jay, Brown Creeper, and Hairy Woodpecker; heavy summer recreation use.



Sponsor: Clackamas County Tourism



PHOTO BY KEVIN SMITH

Gray Jay

23. Fish Creek Campgrounds

Mt Hood NF, Estacada RD. On Hwy 224, 14.7 mi SE of Estacada to intersection of FR 54 (Fish Creek Rd).

Three campgrounds with relatively flat terrain and riparian and shrub habitat at confluence of Fish Creek and Clackamas River; good opportunities to see river-associated birds such as Common Merganser and Belted Kingfisher; American Dipper in rapids; forest and brush-associated birds include Black-headed Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo, and White-crowned Sparrow.



Sponsor: Clackamas County Tourism

24. Ripplebrook Ranger Station/Timber Lake

Mt Hood NF, Clackamas RD. On Hwy 224, 24 mi S of Estacada; E at sign to Timber Lake; at 100 yards park on SW side of pond in parking lot; walk around pond.

Small lake; attracts waterfowl and migratory songbirds in spring and fall, especially in marsh and shrubby habitat; Ripplebrook Ranger Station and Job Corps Center have mixed habitats associated with buildings and ornamental plantings; good diversity of bird species; both sites host occasional east-side species as migrants such as Say's Phoebe, Western Kingbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

25. High Rock Springs

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. From Government Camp on Hwy 26; E for 12 mi; W on FR 42 (Skyline Road) for 5 mi; W on FR 58 for 15 mi to High Rock Springs and campground; park at base of rock. Great view of Mt. Hood with spectacular wildflowers in late summer; good for sapsuckers and Black-backed and Three-toed Woodpeckers; Spotted Owl known to occur.



Sponsor: Clackamas County Tourism

26. Abbott Burn

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. From Hwy 224, 26 mi S of Estacada; L on FR 57 for 7.4 mi; L on FR 58 (Abbott Rd) for 8.8 mi N; (alternative off FR 42 (Skyline Rd) 11 mi W on Abbott Rd). Old clear-cuts on both sides of road; walk periphery of cuts and along road; good for woodpeckers such as Three-toed, Black-backed, Lewis's, and Williamson's Sapsucker; nesting Mountain Bluebird.



Sponsor: Clackamas County Tourism

27. Little Crater Lake

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. From Hwy 26, 13 mi E of Government Camp; S on FR 42 (Skyline Road) for 5 mi; W on FR 58 for 2 mi to campground.

Unique geological feature of a small deep pool surrounded by grasslands, wet meadows, and mixed conifer forest; adjacent to Pacific Crest Trail; one-mi hike through forest to N arm of Timothy Lake; common Cascade forest birds along with Wilson's Snipe and Lincoln's Sparrow in meadows, Violet-green Swallow and Common Nighthawk foraging above lake in evening; Sandhill Crane has nested here; outstanding in May for spring migrants.



Sponsor: American Bird Conservancy

28. Timothy Lake

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. From Hwy 26, 11.4 mi E of Government Camp; S on FR 42 (Skyline Road) for 9 mi; W on FR 57 for 2 mi; campgrounds and lake on N side of road.

Picture postcard views of Mt. Hood; high elevation conifer forest surrounds lake with shrubby riparian and open wetland meadows; hosts a mix of fall migrant waterbirds including Ring-necked Duck, Western, Horned, and Eared Grebe's, Common Loon, and Bufflehead; breeding Barrow's Goldeneye; Ring-billed and California Gull in summer; surrounding forests and wet areas near streams offer diverse landbirds including Red Crossbill, Varied Thrush, and Hermit Thrush.



Sponsor: Leupold & Stevens, Inc.

29. Clackamas Lake Ranger Station

Mt Hood NF, Zig Zag RD. From Government Camp on Hwy 26; E for 13 mi; S on FR 42 (Skyline Road) for 10 mi; campground on W side and Historic Ranger Station on E side of FR 42.

Large open meadow and wetland complex with riparian shrub; campground has a boardwalk out to edge of meadow; historic site, tours available.



Sponsor: National Forest Foundation

30. Bear Springs Campground

Mt Hood NF, Barlow RD. From Government Camp on Hwy 26; E for 16.3 mi; E on Hwy 216 for 4.1 mi; entrance on right; adjacent to Bear Springs Work Center.

Transitional vegetation zone between west and east-side; mixed conifer forest with forested wetland meadow and riparian; good for migrating songbirds in spring, and more typical forest species in other seasons; most birds near meadow, around picnic grounds, and in riparian area; regular species include Pileated Woodpecker, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Red-breasted Nuthatch; breeding Northern Pygmy-Owl and Saw-whet Owl has occurred; Olive-sided Flycatcher at edge of forest adjacent to meadow in summer.



Sponsor: American Bird Conservancy