

Trail Conditions and Descriptions, Orleans R.D. Administered Areas of the Klamath Mountains, Six Rivers National Forest

(Rev. October 7, 2025)

This document is publicly available at KlamathMountainTrails.us . There you can find additional information on trails in the Klamath Mountains of northern California, including KML files precisely showing the correct locations of trails.

General information on road access:

Please drive all forest roads with caution. Keep your speed down, and expect the unexpected! The Six Rivers National Forest has a very small budget for road maintenance. Even late in summer, roads will not be cleared to the standards you would expect on state and county highways, and surfaces will not be maintained to those standards. At any time of the year, you may encounter newly-fallen trees, road sections that have been only minimally cleared, with very narrow cuts through deadfalls, debris including rocks and branches, deep potholes, and places with collapsed pavement. Be on the lookout for projecting log ends and branches. There has been considerable growth of encroaching brush along the shoulders of some of the forest roads. Travel is occasionally very difficult, especially for recreational vehicles and trailers. You may find that it's a "self-service" situation, so bring tools and be prepared to do a bit of work. *Inquire at a Forest Service office concerning road conditions before traveling.*

Some of the roads in the Siskiyou Mountains are closed to travel in the wet months, to combat spread of the Port Orford-cedar pathogen. Typically, gates open June 1 of each year, and close following the first sustained rain in October. *Dates may vary from year to year.* Affected roads include access to the Fish Lake area, Nickowitz Peak Rd. (furnishing access to the East Fork Blue Creek Trail), and Elk Valley Road (furnishing access to Boundary Trail).

In recent years, persons unknown have been repeatedly destroying, cutting down, or taking away many of the directional signs on forest roads, and trailhead informational signs. Use a map to navigate, and do not expect any signs to be in place.

General information on trails:

Many trails are primitive. Maintenance of many less popular trails is infrequent. Some may not be suitable for less experienced hikers. Winter snow and summer thunderstorms often bring down trees that may create new, serious barriers for trail users. Check the condition notes for individual trails, for any recent reports that we may have received. When on the trail, be alert to newly-developed blockages or hazardous conditions that may appear unexpectedly. Be prepared to turn back if hazards are beyond an acceptable level, or if the trail is too difficult for your skills, experience, and physical condition.

Most of those trails that are stock passable are suitable only for equestrians and stock highly experienced with using challenging wilderness trails in rugged terrain. An effort has been made to mention conditions on individual trails presently precluding equestrian use, but be aware that conditions can change quickly, creating additional challenges.

Trails within designated wilderness, or leading into designated wilderness, are not open for mountain bike use. The only trail described in this document open to off highway vehicle (OHV) use is the Lubbs Trail.

In recent years, wildfires have burned in the areas traversed by the majority of the miles of the described trails within the Marble Mountain, Trinity Alps, and Siskiyou Wildernesses. There were areas of major torching and stand-replacing crown fires. These fires have left a continuing hazard of fire-weakened snags falling, especially in windy, rainy, or snowy weather. Trees may fall without warning even on sunny, calm days. Areas of unstable soil and concealed cavities from burned out roots may also exist along trail treads. Brush has been growing extremely rapidly in many places now exposed to sunlight. Please be guided accordingly. Choose campsites with care, keeping in mind the danger of limbs falling from dead or weakened trees.

We lack recent reports of conditions of many of the trails. Conditions may have changed since the information reported in this document was gathered.

Topographic maps are a very poor guide to the locations of trails! The routes as depicted on published maps are occasionally accurate, but are commonly on the spectrum from slightly off, through laughably wrong, to utter hallucinations. To locate trails, use, instead, the KML files available at KlamathMountainTrails.us .

Heat warning: Summer months can be very hot, especially at lower elevations. Be aware of the dangers of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. In summer, we advise doing your hiking during the cooler hours of the day. When the temperature rises, avoid extended hiking between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Plan ahead!

Use of this document:

This document covers all recreational trails for which the Orleans Ranger District has administrative responsibility. These include trails in portions of the Marble Mountain, Siskiyou, and Trinity Alps Wildernesses, and adjoining national forest lands. Duties of the Orleans District's maintenance staff cover three ranger districts in all. The descriptions are grouped by district, and are in alphabetical order within each group:

- o Lower Trinity Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest
- o Orleans Ranger District, Six Rivers National Forest
- o Ukonom Ranger District, Klamath National Forest

We can offer no assurance that the information in this document is complete, fully accurate, or up to date. It is beyond our abilities to learn of all changes to conditions, or to revise this document

rapidly to reflect them. When planning a trip, *please note the revision date of each trail description*, and take into account the possibility that conditions may have changed since then. We lack recent information on conditions of some trails mentioned here.

Before starting your trip, it is prudent to check with the office for the ranger district in which trails you plan to use are located, for any further information they may have--but understand that staff may themselves not have full, up to date information on all trails, so do your homework. For trails in the Orleans and Ukonom Districts, contact the Orleans Ranger Station at One Ishi Pishi Rd., Orleans, Calif. 95556, (530) 627-3291. For trails in the Lower Trinity District, contact the Orleans Ranger Station or the Lower Trinity Ranger Station at 580 Highway 96, Willow Creek, Calif. 95573, (530) 629-2118. When doing so, mention to staff the revision date of this document. In general, Forest Service offices are closed on weekends.

Trails on neighboring districts:

The main page at KlamathMountainTrails.us has some notes on how to find information on trail conditions in neighboring ranger districts.

Also available at KlamathMountainTrails.us :

- o A detailed mileage chart for trails in the Ukonom R.D. portion of the Marble Mountain Wilderness.
- o "Recommended Day Hikes, Orleans, Ukonom, and Lower Trinity Ranger Districts, Six Rivers National Forest" (PDF file)
- o Fowler Cabin Journal, 2003-2018 (PDF file)
- o KML files with accurate paths for trails (for use with Google Earth)

Some tips for locating faint, little-used trails, particularly in areas affected by fire in recent years, if you are having trouble spotting the route forward:

- o Look for saw cuts on down logs, and blazes cut into tree trunks. A blaze is a cut in the shape of a candle or an upside-down exclamation point.
- o Look for a depression worn into the ground, or a line of compacted soil, caused by decades of foot and stock traffic, even if now covered by brush.
- o If there are recently fallen trees and other debris in the area, consider the possibility that the trail goes directly through heaviest fall of debris and is therefore completely hidden. Note that where a trail crosses a slope, it often catches logs and rocks rolling down the slope, particularly during or after a fire.
- o Consider the possibility that the trail has made a switchback or other unexpected turn. However, most commonly a trail will not make a sudden, illogical turn, and is likely to continue forward in something close to a straight line.
- o Think about what would be the immediate, rational destination of the trail, based on the terrain and on what you can read from maps.

o Thick stands of plant stems covering the ground, with no gap, are not usually the trail route. However, there may be exceptions to this in areas of vigorous new growth in the years soon after a fire (conifer seedlings being notorious for this).

o Water and meadow crossings can be especially tricky. Look for the continuation of the trail in the distance, on the far side of the stream or meadow.

o Road construction, logging operations, or lines dug by firefighters may obliterate a section of a trail. Flooding or a landslide may do the same.

o If you have lost the route and find yourself stumped, it is usually best to retrace your steps to the last point at which you were certain you were on the trail, and to start over from there, looking for the continuation. Consider the possibility that you have followed a branching false path that has petered out.

You can help improve the trail system! Please report any new information on trail conditions, or even confirmation of the continued accuracy of information in this document, to the Orleans Ranger District office, One Ishi Pishi Rd., Orleans, Calif., (530) 627-3291. Please send a copy of your report to the editor of this document at CPVR144@gmail.com . This will help us to assess maintenance needs, set work priorities, and furnish the public with accurate information.

Kick a stick! Or pick a stick. Or knock a rock. Off the trail, that is, with caution please. One of the ongoing trail maintenance tasks with which it very hard for trail crews to keep up is removal of small to medium-size sticks and rocks that constantly fall and litter trails. If every hiker removed a few of these in passing, the combined effort would go a long way toward keeping the trails clear.

Compiled by Chris Valle-Riestra. This is not an official U.S. Forest Service document.

LOWER TRINITY RANGER DISTRICT:

Bell Swamps Trail (#6E20)

Trail in the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Takes off from the intersection of the Tish Tang Trail (#6E18) and Horse Trail Ridge Trail (#6E08), and goes to the large montane meadow complexes of Lower Ferguson Meadows, then Bell Swamps, where it dead ends. Low maintenance. There has been no recent work. There have been no recent reports of conditions of most of the trail. The start of the trail appears usable. Many parts of the route are vague. There are sometimes confusing alternate ways to go. The main route often deviates greatly from what maps show. It must be understood that the trail was developed as a route for driving cattle to pastures, so there are many old cow paths in the area. Users can expect an open way to proceed, if not a clear path, for about half a mile south from Lower Ferguson Meadows and the junction with Calf Swag Trail, past a final group of trees and small meadow. At that point, the trail starts a steep descent. Aerial imagery from before 2020 showed the trail to be extremely brushy from here most of the way to Bell Swamps. More recent imagery shows the brush in this area to have mostly burned off in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. The route should be passable--for now--but patches of head-high partially burned brush remain. For much of the way, you would be doing well to find any trail whatsoever. Use of a GPS track is suggested. Anyone making the full journey will be rewarded with an increasingly uncommon stand of green timber surrounding the Bell Swamps. (Updated October 2021.)

Approximate length: 4.4 miles

Board Camp Trail (##4E27 & 4E26)

Trail to Fork Camp and Board Camp Mountain west from Forest Highway 1. Trailhead parking is at the end of a short unpaved spur road. The best, though overgrown start of the trail is back at the junction of this spur with F.H. 1. For a short distance it follows a decommissioned road. Thereafter, the trail is easy to follow, with no deadfalls or difficult brush. It has been receiving a moderate amount of motorcycle use. It appears that motorcyclists cleared down logs at some time in the past. As a result, the current trail deviates from the original route in places, making extra ups and downs. Past Fork Camp, the trail gets increasing ATV use, to where it ends at the jeep trail that ascends to the fire lookout site at the top of Board Camp Mountain. (Updated August 2019.)

Approximate length: 1.7 miles

Boise Creek Campground Trail (#5E65)

Short trail at Forest Service Boise Creek Campground. Trail descends from campground down to Willow Creek, which is a tributary to the Trinity River. Very beautiful riparian scenery at bottom of trail.

Bremer Ridge Trail (#5E38)

Trail off Waterman Ridge north of Willow Creek. Trail received maintenance in 2016 by Boy Scout Troop 96. (Updated July 2018.)

Bug Creek Trail (#4E26)

Starting from the jeep trail that ascends Board Camp Mountain, the trail runs west to the Mad River Buttes. Beautiful vistas of the Pacific Ocean, the Trinity Alps, and countless mountain ranges as far south as North Yolla Bolly. This is mostly a ridgetop trail, steep in places. It has very little water until one reaches Bug Creek, and then again after the trail leaves Bug Creek. A marvelous variety of wildflowers in spring. Light to moderate brush to the western junction with the Wallace Camp-Fork Camp Trail (#4E28).

Places from the trailhead to the Wallace Camp-Fork Camp Trail junction have become overgrown with brushy oak. Hikers can wade through. Past that point, the trail is very poorly defined in most stretches. There is some blowdown here and there, old and new, "but nothing too h0rrific." Much of the route is off-trail bushwhacking, though mostly there's actually not much brush. The roughest stretch is along Bug Creek. You're on a steep slope crossing side ravines. There are still blazes here and there, even where there's absolutely no evidence of a trail. (Updated July 2024.)

Calf Swag Trail (#6E15)

Trail within the Trinity Alps Wilderness, connecting Patterson Meadows at the Tish Tang Trail, with Ferguson Meadows at the Bell Swamps Trail. The Wiktionary defines a swag as "a low point or depression in land, especially a place where water collects," citing 1902, D. G. Simmons, "The Influence of Contaminated Water in the Development of Diseases," *The American Practitioner and News*. There has been no recent maintenance, and probably this was always a primitive, somewhat vague route. Aerial imagery shows the vicinity of the trail to have been only lightly affected by the 2020 Red Salmon Fire, though repeated fires in the previous two decades were devastating, leaving only scattered standing trees. The way seems almost all open, and the terrain is gentle. Only small parts of the route have trail tread visible from the air. Much of the route, including meadow crossings as well as higher ground, will have no discernible trail. Use of a GPS track is suggested. (Updated October 2021.)

Approximate length: 1.6 miles

Cedar Creek Trail (#6E76)

Near the Groves Prairie dispersed recreation area. This is a short trail by itself, mostly used by hunters going into the Cedar Creek drainage. Trail was maintained by the Willow Creek YCC crew in 2017. (Updated July 2018.)

Approximate length: 0.6 mile

Crogan Basin Trail (#6E16)

Sometimes called Grogan Basin Trail or Oregon Basin Trail--these are probably misspellings. Trail into the western Trinity Alps Wilderness. Most direct route to the Devils Backbone Trail (#12W02) and Trinity Summit area. The trail begins at Bear Hole, at the end of Road #10N02A (labeled #10N02 on some maps) in the Tish Tang a Tang Creek watershed. In the vicinity of Crogan Hole, at the spot known as Andy's Camp, it meets the Crogan Hole Trail (#6E74), which is on the alignment of a decommissioned road, at a signed intersection. At this point, the two trails coincide for perhaps 200 feet. Watch for a rock cairn marking the uphill continuation of the Crogan Basin Trail. The trail ends at an intersection with the Horse Trail Ridge Trail (#6E08).

In 2023, under Forest Service contract, the Hoopa Forestry Dept. logged out the trail to the Crogan Hole Trail junction, and brushed out the bad parts of that section. Deadfalls may remain along the remainder of the trail, to the Horse Trail Ridge Trail junction. As a whole the trail is reportedly "overgrown but passable" as of September 2023. (Updated October 2023.)

Approximate length: 2.8 miles

Crogan Creek Trail (#6E29)

Also called Oregon Creek Trail--probably a misspelling. Trail within the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Connects Crogan Basin Trail (#6E16) to Tish Tang Trail (#6E18), Calf Swag Trail (#6E15), and Graveyard Prairie Trail (#6E31). Trail travels to Crogan Hole and Bret Hole. There has been no recent maintenance, and there have been no recent reports of conditions. Expect the trail to be extremely difficult to find. (Updated April 2018.)

Approximate length: 3.9 miles

Crogan Hole Trail (#6E74)

Trail in the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, starting at the Mill Creek Lakes Trailhead. It stays below the summit area, but connects to numerous trails that lead to the high country, with beautiful scenery. With public access to the start of the Tish Tang Trail being limited, the Crogan Hole Trail is presently the easiest approach to McKay Meadows and Patterson Meadows, by itself or in combination with the Crogan Basin Trail from Bear Hole.

Being on the bed of an old road that was included inside the wilderness boundary, the trail is wider than most and less prone to brush encroachment. However, as the area of the trail has since 1999 repeatedly burned intensely, there is little standing timber and brush grows fast in the full summer sun. Logged out July 2019, probably again early summer 2020, and possibly again in 2023 or 2024. June 2024, a hiker reports, "Getting brushy again in places, but still easy to follow." Stock passable at last report, but the 2024 report said nothing concern presence or absence of down logs. Please see the condition reports on connecting trails when planning a trip. (Updated November 2024.)

Approximate length: 5.2 miles

Graveyard Prairie Trail (#6E31)

Trail accesses the Trinity Alps Wilderness and the Graveyard Prairie area. There has been no recent maintenance. Sadly, this entire route really got creamed in the 1999 Megram Fire and subsequent burns. The former heavy forest cover surrounding the scattered meadows has been almost entirely incinerated, and brush has grown vigorously in its place. *Hiking Humboldt, Volume 1*, published 2016, rated the condition of the trail as "nonexistent." Nevertheless, the 2020 Red Salmon Fire burned off much of the brush, so for the time being an enterprising hiker might be able to make a route for what by now amounts to a cross-country trek. (Updated October 2021.)

Approximate length: 2.7 miles

Gray Falls Trail (#6E30)

Access trail to the Wild and Scenic Trinity River at Grays Falls Campground (currently closed) and day use area (open). Three different trail segments make up this trail system. It's approximately a 0.4 mile hike to the river from each of the two trailheads. The eastern starting point is in the day use area. The western starting point is in the campground. After the routes from the two trailheads join, close to the river, the trail branches again. Both forks lead to the water's edge. Trail mostly used for fishing, rafting, and general river recreation activities. The trail is in mostly good condition and easily passable. (Updated September 2017.)

Approximate length: 0.5 mile

Groves Prairie Trail (#6E67)

Loop trail at dispersed recreation site, follows meadows and small mountain creek.

Approximate length: 1.3 miles

Hlel-Din Trail (#5E32)

Short access trail to the Trinity River. Reaches the confluence of the South Fork of the Trinity River. Used for rafting, fishing, and general river recreation activities.

Approximate length: 0.2 mile

Horse Linto Trail (#5E36)

Interpretive trail at Horse Linto Campground. The trail shows examples of instream enhancement structures and is also a good place to watch salmon spawn. The trail is regularly maintained by Willow Creek YCC crews and USFS fisheries staff. (Updated July 2018.)

Approximate length: 0.4 mile

Horse Trail Ridge Trail (#6E08)

National Recreation Trail on the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Has low visitor use compared with other areas of the Trinity Alps. Outstanding country and solitude! This is a very old route that supplied the gold mining towns and homesteads between the coast and inland settlements. Along the way it passes the historic Trinity Summit Guard Station, with spectacular views nearby.

The north end begins at the Red Cap Trailhead on Road #10N02 in the Mill Creek watershed. A large sign next to and visible from the road marks the start of the trail. NOTE--the trailhead is marked in the wrong location--one ridge line to the north of the actual start--on some Forest Service maps. The true start of the trail is opposite Road #9N35, on the ridge between the Colgrove Branch of Mill Creek and Domingo Creek (also known as Middle Fork Mill Creek). The 2017 revision of the Six Rivers National Forest map shows the trail correctly, but continues to show a trailhead symbol at the wrong location. There used to be a second branch of the trail starting at the aforementioned one ridge line north. However, in the 1999 Megram Fire the forest along this branch burned off entirely, end to end, and then the brush completely closed in. The start of this branch at Road #10N02 is indiscernible.

The trail is a long one. Initially, it rises for about a mile through an attractive forest. It then climbs to the ridge top through an area in which the forest was mostly killed off in the 1999 Megram Fire, and the encroaching brush was later burned off in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. Another mile brings one to the start of Red Cap Prairie, with forested fringes and expanding views. About 3.2 miles in, a steep scramble of approximately 0.6 miles may be made down to Blacks Lake, where the fishing is reportedly good. This route has an official USFS trail number, #6E09, but there is no discernible trail.

From there, the trail descends past the south end of Red Cap Prairie, then climbs very steeply on a rocky path toward Lookout Rock, which is reached by a very short signed spur. Continuing south, there's no real trail in some meadow areas. Take a curving route bulging to the northwest around and

through the large meadow a half mile north of Water Dog Lakes. Continuing past the first of the Water Dog Lakes, over a distance of many miles, the trail first intersects the Long Prairie Trail, then the Crogan Basin and Onemile Trails, and reaches the Trinity Summit Guard Station. Continuing south, the trail intersects the Tish Tang and Bell Swamps Trails, then the Lipps Camp Trail. Parts of the route past the junction with the Tish Tang Trail, descending to Devils Hole, are quite vague.

Hiking Humboldt, Volume 1, published 2016, reported that from Lipps Camp Trail to Lipps Camp, the trail is no more than a cross-country route marked by a handful of ducks. Lipps Camp is located in a minor tributary drainage, well south of the saddle, below the spring shown on topographic maps. It currently shows little evidence of people camping there. For three-quarters of a mile south of Lipps Camp, the trail runs closer to Horse Linto Creek (farther west) than shown on topographic maps. Sections of the trail are vague. "[B]ear [east] around the boulder field, staying near the [east] side of the canyon."

About a mile and a half before reaching the end at the Grizzly Camp Trailhead, the trail intersects a former jeep trail, now closed to motorized use, not separately described in this document and not an official Forest Service trail. There is no sign here. By following this branch east up a few switchbacks, one can reach the ridge north of Trinity Mountain. The summit of Trinity Mountain is a moderate cross country scramble southeast up the ridge from there. The former jeep trail continues north along the ridge, and eventually drops all the way to the Virgin Creek Trail, in the Trinity National Forest. From the above-described intersection, the main Horse Trail Ridge Trail continues south, now along the route of the former jeep trail, to Grizzly Camp Trailhead in the drainage of East Fork Horse Linto Creek.

The entire length of the trail has been affected to a greater or lesser degree by repeated fires, starting with the huge 1999 Megram Fire and most recently the even larger 2020 Red Salmon Fire. Extensive tracts of forest were killed in past fires, and in those areas brush grew up vigorously, presenting quite a challenge to trail users. Much of the brush was incinerated in the 2020 fire. That and work by fire crews temporarily put the trail in decent condition for hikers and stock through Red Cap Prairie. We don't have a recent report, but strongly suspect that by summer 2023, regrowth of snowbrush ceanothus may have made the trail close to impassable both north and south of Red Cap Prairie; these locations are particularly vulnerable to incredibly rapid regrowth.

The trail climbing past Lookout Rock, and to Long Prairie Trail, is open and easily hikeable. The final push to the junction with Long Prairie Trail is obscured by vegetation, but there's a reassuring sign when one reaches the junction.

From Long Prairie Trail to Crogan Basin Trail, the ground is mostly open, with the trail following broad ridge tops and passing through attractive meadow areas, as far as the Crogan Basin Trail junction. The Hoopa Forestry crew did maintenance in this area, and as far as Trinity Summit Guard Station, in July 2019. As of August 2022, the trail rising from the Long Prairie Trail junction is becoming moderately brushy. Parts of the route from there to the Crogan Basin Trail junction have become indistinct, post-fire. Use of a GPS track is suggested. The trail past the guard station, to Tish Tang Trail, has in recent years been in passable condition for hikers, though there have been down logs.

The condition of the rest of the trail will be described from south to north. This area has been affected by rapid regrowth of brush after the repeated fires. There has been some recent work by the Hoopa forestry crew. A hiker's October 2024 report says, "Once you get past the initial uphill slog, an easy trail through partially burned forest. Possible to hike up through Devils Hole." The latter statement implies that the hiker may not have actually hiked past Lipps Camp, so use discretion. Northwest of Lipps Camp, there was until summer 2020 "a sea of brush," but the area burned intensely in the 2020 fire. If regrowth of brush makes the route too difficult, a potential bypass would be to depart the trail to the west below Lipps Camp, to ascend following close to the bed of Horse Linto Creek, and then to climb to the ridge line where the creek approaches it closely, to rejoin the trail. This is a distance of a little under half a mile. Close study of Google Earth imagery is advised for anyone thinking of making this attempt. Once the trail gains the top of the side ridge to the west, it goes through more open country.

The extension of the old jeep route forming the side trail up Trinity Mountain is reasonably open to start with, although it has deadfalls and some brush. About two miles north after gaining the ridge of Trinity Mountain, the ridge branches, with the trail taking a possibly-confusing right turn over a shoulder. The route from this point on was much less recently graded as a jeep trail, and became overgrown to the point of not really being usable.

Most of Horse Trail Ridge Trail should be stock passable at present, with the likely exception of the areas north and south of Red Cap Prairie. There may be unknown difficulties as a result of newly dropped deadfalls. (Updated November 2024.)

Approximate length: 15.8 miles

Ladder Rock Trail (#6E22)

Trail in the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Takes off from Graveyard Prairie Trail (#6E31) near Graveyard Prairie and goes to Ladder Rock. There has been no recent maintenance. As with the Graveyard Prairie Trail, the former heavy forest cover has been almost entirely incinerated. *Hiking Humboldt, Volume 1*, published 2016, rated the condition of the trail as "nonexistent." (Updated August 2016.)

Approximate length: 0.1 mile

Lone Pine Trail (Lower) (#5E36)

Ascends from Horse Linto Campground. This is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail. If discernible at all, it has not received maintenance in many decades.

Lone Pine Trail (Upper) (#6E36)

Very low use, very little maintenance. Follows a closed road bed. Trail crosses Horse Linto Creek and connects Lone Pine Ridge and Tish Tang Ridge. Trail adjoins the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Approximate length: 2.1 miles

Long Prairie Trail (#6E19)

Trail in the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness, takes off of the Crogan Hole Trail (#6E74) near the trailhead and connects to the Horse Trail Ridge Trail (#6E08). Trail goes to Water Dog Lakes. Basic maintenance performed by the Hoopa Forestry crew July 2023; in fair to good condition for hikers and stock to Water Dog Lakes. (Updated August 2023.)

Approximate length: 1.4 miles

Lower Campbell Ridge Trail (#5E37) (shown as #5E40 on some maps)

Short trail branching off the Salyer Trail (#5E31).

Approximate length: 0.8 mile

Maggies Camp Trail (#6E50)

Descends a ridge from the Trinity Summit Guard Station, crosses the Crogan Creek Trail (#6E29), and ends at the Crogan Hole Trail (#6E74). There has been no recent maintenance, and there have been no recent reports of conditions. Expect the trail to be extremely difficult to find. (Updated September 2018.)

Approximate length: 0.9 mile

McKay Meadows Trail (#6E35)

Spur trail off Tish Tang Trail (#6E18). Goes to McKay Meadows in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Connects into the end of Crogan Hole Trail (#6E74), a decommissioned road bed. An extension descends extremely steeply, crosses Bret Creek and Tish Tang a Tang Creek, and then follows a closed road bed to a road end near the wilderness boundary.

The route of the trail deviates considerably from how published maps show it. From the Tish Tang Trail junction, McKay Meadows Trail starts as a clear beaten path. It soon becomes obscure through several crossings of Corral Creek and boggy places, but if you know the right direction, the way is

clear to the intersection of Crogan Hole Trail. As to the northern extension, at least its continued existence was confirmed by a local resident in 2018. On the other hand, in 2022 another very experienced hiker was unable to find it from the bottom end. (Updated July 2022.)

Approximate length: 2.1 miles

Lower Mill Creek Lake Trail (#6E73)

Trail in the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Takes off from the Red Cap Hole Trail (#6E14), furnishing access to Lower Mill Creek Lake. Fishing and camping opportunities. Beautiful scenery. The location where the trail branches from Red Cap Hole Trail is presently very obscure, as the signs burned in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. Just look for the cirque under prominent cliffs and head for it. There is no longer any evidence of the former northern leg of the trail that made a loop back to Red Cap Hole Trail. Some maps show the trail circling Lower Mill Creek Lake or ascending to Upper Mill Creek Lake. These are inaccurate. Clear for hikers and stock as of August 2023. (Updated August 2023.)

Approximate length: 0.2 mile

Packsaddle Ridge Trail (#6E08)

At one time, this trail seems to have been continuous with a route also called the Mill Creek Trail, starting near the end of Road #10N02P (which has been decommissioned), east from Mill Creek Gap. This northwest end of the trail seems to have been largely lost in a maze of logging roads. Now the starting point is some miles farther up, at the spot known as Packsaddle Gap. Here are a large clearing and parking area, reached by taking a very short side road up the hill from the northeasternmost bend of Road #10N02 in the North Fork Mill Creek drainage. The spur road is steep and subject to washing out. It is passable only for high clearance vehicles, with four wheel drive advised. You can park along the main road instead. The clearing severs the old trail, and the current trail starts at its south end. Various maps show two routes to the top. However, the western route, ending near Peak 5875 as shown on topographic maps, is probably nonexistent. The true route climbs very steeply, and joins the Horse Trail Ridge Trail (#6E08) near Peak 5980, in Red Cap Prairie.

The trail had not been maintained by the Forest Service in recent years. However, fire crews created a bulldozer line along the length of the trail starting at Packsaddle Gap, in response to the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. The way is open for the time being, though unfortunately rehabilitation efforts didn't give heed to the fact that this was an established trail. (Updated October 2022.)

Approximate length (as described from Packsaddle Gap): 1.7 miles

Red Cap Hole Trail (#6E14)

Trail in the western side of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Takes off left from the Crogan Hole Trail (#6E74) near the trailhead. After approximately 1 ½ miles, the spur to Lower Mill Creek Lake (#6E73, see separate description) branches to the right. This junction is presently very obscure, as the signs burned in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. Just look for the cirque under prominent cliffs and head for it. Red Cap Hole Trail past this point receives very light use. *Note that none of the published maps show the location of the northern part of the trail, to and past Domingo Creek, also known as Middle Fork Mill Creek, accurately.* There is a south-facing sign along the Horse Trail Ridge Trail marking the junction with the north end of the Red Cap Hole Trail--but the sign is missing an arrow pointing the correct direction to the stated destination, "Red Cap Hole."

Logging out started by the Hoopa Forestry Crew July 2023, but not yet complete. The trail is in decent condition and easy to follow as far as the spur to the lake. The rest of the trail has received very little maintenance in many years. Almost the entire trail burned over in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. Much of the route, particularly through meadows, is very vague. Use of a GPS track is suggested. There are down logs to negotiate. Where the trail traverses west-facing slopes south of the Domingo Creek watershed, there are patches of very difficult, heavy brush. Matters improve as the trail turns on to a north-facing slope. There's an obscure, difficult crossing of a side creek as one draws close to Domingo Creek Camp. From there to the camp, crossing Domingo Creek, and then making the first part of the ascent through meadows past the creek, there's no real trail, but the way is easy to recognize and follow. As the meadows peter out, the trail again becomes apparent, bending left steeply uphill. Then, where the trail makes a full switchback turn left, the regrowing snowbrush ceanothus closes in, to the point that most people would consider impassable (just three years post-fire). It's unfortunate, because it's only a short distance uphill to where the vegetation again thins out. (Updated August 2023.)

Approximate length: 3.7 miles

Salyer Trail (#5E31)

Short access trail for the Trinity River.

Approximate length: 0.4 mile

South Fork Trinity Trail (East Side) (#6E23.1 or 5E23.1?)

A long access trail to the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Trinity River. Beautiful trail in the springtime, with the wildflowers. Spectacular views of deep gorges. Connects to South Fork Trinity Trail (West Side) (#6E23.2) after fording the river.

The trail starts just across the road from the trailhead signboard. Starting from here, the current route of the trail follows what was formerly known as the Coon Creek Loop Trail, assigned #6E39. The older route of the first part of the South Fork Trinity Trail is no longer maintained.

The trail to the crossing of Hells Half Acre Cr., and somewhat beyond, was logged out in spring 2024. As of October 2024, there are a few new deadfalls, one presenting moderate difficulty, before the elbow where the trail turns to descent to Hells Half Acre Cr. A short distance past the junction with the old route of the trail, there is one tangle of down tanoaks blocking the proper route of the trail. An easy to follow, unobstructed bypass is in use. Continuing to the river, the trail has been mostly logged out relatively recently. Parts of the final descent to Hells Half Acre Creek, and of the trail beyond, are narrow and traverse steep bluffs with sharp dropoffs below. Along these parts of the trail, there has in recent years been sloughing of material onto the trail tread, making for precarious and unstable footing in places. Caution is advised. However, overall the condition of the trail has improved over past years. Improvements made to the first half of the descent to Hells Half Acre Cr., autumn 2023.

In its present condition, the trail is very dangerous for stock. (Updated November 2024.)

Approximate length: 3.9 miles

South Fork Trinity Trail (West Side) (#6E23.2 or 5E23.2?)

A long access trail to the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Trinity River. Connects to the South Fork Trinity Trail (East Side) (#6E23.1) after fording the river. The lesser used of the two South Fork Trinity Trails, it is not regularly maintained, is reportedly very hard to follow, and may be largely overgrown. From aerial imagery, parts appear to be extremely vague. There may presently be difficulties gaining access to the start of the trail in the vicinity of private property near the trailhead. An October 2024 report states that the tread can be found after fording the river from the east side. The ford itself is moderately difficult, close to leg length deep even at low water. There is no clear trail in the immediate vicinity of the ford. There was at one time a high bridge across the river, but it is long gone, probably since 1964. (Updated November 2024.)

Approximate length: 4.5 miles

Sucker Lake Trail (#5E35)

Short trail off of Forest Highway 6 in the Oak Knob area. A lake access trail.

Approximate length: 0.3 mile

Sugar Trail (#5E33)

Short access trail to the Trinity River. Reaches the confluence of Horse Linto Creek. Used for fishing and general river recreation activities.

Approximate length: 0.2 mile

Surprise Valley Trail (#6E38)

Short little spur trail northeast off South Fork Trinity Trail (East Side) (#5E23.1 or 6E23.1), a short distance from the trailhead, that goes to an old homestead site on Surprise Creek. Shown incorrectly or not at all on most maps. In good condition as of summer 2020. (Updated August 2020.)

Tish Tang Trail (#6E18)

This has historically been one of the main access trails into the Trinity Alps from the west side. The trailhead currently has limited access. Some years ago, there was a boundary adjustment between the national forest and the Hoopa Reservation, correcting an old erroneous survey. The road approaching the trailhead now crosses the reservation. Due to past difficulties, the Hoopa Tribe currently finds it necessary to keep the primary access road closed to the public--the road rising from Horse Linto Campground is blocked by K-rails at the reservation boundary. A more roundabout but decent route from Hoopa, starting on the north side of the Highway 96 bridge over Trinity River, remains usable. The tribe has limited use of many roads to members and others on tribal business, and has at times issued citations to others found on them. However, some hikers have reported being told they were welcome to drive to the trailhead. We advise speaking with tribal police and requesting permission before driving the access road.

The Tish Tang Trail provides access to Humboldt County's largest montane meadow complex. There are some spectacular views along the way.

The trail begins by climbing through a section of lightly burned forest. This section is passable. After crossing South Fork Tish Tang a Tang Creek, the trail climbs moderately for close to a mile, through a landscape where the forest burned off completely in the massive 1999 Megram Fire, then again in a series of wildfires in subsequent years, most recently the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. This area has since seen rapid, heavy growth of brush. Under a Forest Service contract, the Hoopa Forestry Dept. cleared brush through this area, to the vicinity of Patterson Meadows, in July 2023. Past Patterson Meadows, most of the brush is gone for now. There may be short sections of heavy growth. Starting with meadow crossings of uncertain location, the route is extremely vague and easily lost, until about a mile below the Horse Trail Ridge Trail junction. Use of a GPS track is suggested. The last mile passes through rocky terrain, with a clearly established trail tread.

An alternative approach to Patterson Meadows is way of Crogan Hole and McKay Meadows Trails. (Updated October 2023.)

Approximate length: 5.1 miles

Todd Ranch Trail (#6E37)

Short access trail to the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Trinity River.

Tunnel Flat Trail (#6E75)

Short access trail to the Trinity River. Used for rafting, fishing, and general river recreation activities.

Wallace Camp-Fork Camp Trail (#4E28)

Loop trail off Bug Creek and Board Camp Mountain Trails (##4E26 & 4E27). All steep elevation gain and loss. Begins on ridge top, travels down to a beautiful forested glade on a fork of Bug Creek, and then back to ridge top. Trail travels through many different vegetation types. Very low use. The top two-thirds of the western half of the trail receives some four wheel ATV use by a local rancher. Stretches of this part of the trail are little more than straight up and down gullies. The rest of the trail has a decent tread. All easy to find. No major obstructions or brush at this time. (Updated July 2021.)

Approximate length: 3.3 miles

ORLEANS RANGER DISTRICT:

Aikens Creek Trail (#5E08)

Apparently a part of the old pre-highway pack trail from Weitchpec to Orleans, this trail once connected the Aikens Creek Campground with Highway 96 at the mouth of Bluff Creek. Unfortunately, a landslide near the Aikens Creek end has left a sheer rock face severing the trail. For this reason, the trail is no longer maintained. The Bluff Creek end of the trail is poorly defined, climbing over the rocky ridge in the area of a major road cut and power line access routes. If you can find the trail following a short descent of the other side of this ridge, much of the rest of the trail south to the location of the landslide is in fair condition. (Updated June 2022.)

Approximate length: 1.0 mile

Blue Lake Trail (#4E56)

Loop trail around Blue Lake. Part of the Fish Lake recreation complex, Blue Lake has close vehicle access separate from the U.S. Forest Service developed campground at Fish Lake. The vegetation type is old growth Douglas-fir and mostly-deceased Port Orford-cedar. Stock not permitted. For those who prefer to hike to Blue Lake from the campground, it is approximately an hour hike along

the Red Mountain Lake Trail. In October 2024, blowdown was cut from the trailhead about half of the way around the lake along the western shore. A new boardwalk across a boggy area was installed summer 2018. As of May 2025, in decent condition though the route around the south side of the lake is vague in places. (Updated July 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.5 mile

Bluff Creek Historic Trail (#5E01)

Also known as the "Bluff Creek Historical Trail." Day hike trail near E-Ne-Nuk Campground. Suitable for year-round use. Gateway to "bigfoot country." Trail goes from Highway 96 to Slate Creek Road. Only the Highway 96 end is marked by a sign. The first part of the trail climbs through chaparral on serpentine soils. The trail continues mostly in shade, through mixed evergreen forest of varied age.

Maintenance performed May 2025, courtesy of the Bigfoot Trail Alliance. The trail should be in generally good condition for hikers and stock. The old extension of the trail north into the canyon of Bluff Creek ending at the road to the Wright Place (about 2.5 miles long) is not a Forest Service-maintained trail, but it follows the line of a decommissioned road. As of January 2021, it was very passable for a little over a mile, to a nice viewpoint overlooking Bluff Creek. Past there it becomes unpleasantly brushy. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length (maintained section): 1.3 miles

Boise Creek River Access Trail (#5E05)

Short access trail down to the Klamath River, across the river from the mouth of Boise Creek. No sign marks the trailhead. Look for a pullout with an Adopt-A-Highway sign next to it. There is no trail sign. Basic maintenance performed late 2023 and early 2024. In hikeable condition, but rapid growth of blackberries and willows may make the final approach to the river difficult. The trail provides direct access to only a very short piece of river bank. Travel up and down river from there may be difficult, due to thickets. (Updated June 2024.)

Approximate length: 0.2 mile

Boundary Trail (North) (Orleans and Ukonom R.D.) (#4E50)

NOTE: The spur road from the G-O Rd. to the trailhead in Elk Valley is subject to closure during the rainy season and well into spring to combat spread of the Port Orford-cedar pathogen. Inquire about the road status at the Orleans Ranger District office. In most years, it opens June 1, and closes after the first one inch fall of rain in autumn. Even though it was originally built as a moderately high speed highway, the G-O Rd. past Rock Creek Butte has been in increasingly terrible condition, with Forest Service maintenance efforts being minimal. Be alert for stretches of road thickly littered

with large, sharp-edged rocks and with huge fallen logs that might block 80% of the width of the road.

Please be aware that during late summer months, members of native American peoples with homelands on the area's rivers frequently visit Elk Valley and the nearby high country, including the southern portion of the Boundary Trail, for spiritual purposes. Please do not approach other persons you may see in these areas, as they may wish to remain in complete isolation. Please pass through quickly and quietly.

Low maintenance, for experienced hikers, with many ups and downs along the entire length of the trail. Hiking any part of this trail will take much longer than you would think from reading maps. Within the Siskiyou Wilderness. Beautiful high country scenery and lots of solitude.

Going north from where the end of the road in Elk Valley crosses Blue Creek (possibly dry), watch for a wooden trail sign high in a tree to your left marking the start of the trail. The first part of the trail ascends steadily, with the views opening up more and more as you go up, to a small, high tarn, and just after that the first pass. This is approximately 1.5 miles from the trailhead. The trail then descends very steeply to two meadow crossings. It then ascends again, extremely steeply, to a junction with the disappearing Buck Camp Ridge Trail (which crosses into the Gasquet Ranger District), and then to a ridge south of Sawtooth Mountain. It then descends, at a rate beyond extremely steeply, into Elk Hole. From there, the trail again climbs to the spine of the Siskiyou Mountains, and continues north, passing out of the Orleans Ranger District near the Dillon Divide. The trail continues in the Gasquet Ranger District along the west slope of the Siskiyou Mountains, after many miles reaching Harrington Lake and the trail's terminus at a junction with the South Kelsey Trail.

The trail is maintained as far as the first pass to a moderate standard, passable to hikers and stock. The trail past that point is primitive. It crosses an area burned in a wildfire several years ago. Good routefinding skills may be needed in places. There is now a clear path descending to Elk Hole and crossing the pond outlet. In September 2018, the Siskiyou Mountain Club made repairs in the area of a large landslide south of Harrington Lake, which had all but blocked the trail for several years. Thereafter the club completed at least partial maintenance along the full length of the trail. It is now possible to make a through hike all the way, although the route is very strenuous. Stock is not recommended going north past the south shoulder of Sawtooth Mountain, due to excessive grade and poor trail surface--equestrians should not attempt to descend to Elk Hole. North from Elk Hole, an August 2020 report stated that there were "many trees down."

Please inquire of the Gasquet Ranger District concerning any new information on conditions from the vicinity of Dillon Divide to Harrington Lake. (Updated June 2022.)

Approximate length (to Harrington Lake): 9.3 miles

Boundary Trail (West) (#4E50)

This old jeep road, now closed to vehicles, runs west from Elk Valley to the Gasquet stub end of the G-O Rd. At one time, before roads were built, the name "Boundary Trail" referred to the route from north of Harrington Mountain following ridge lines all the way to Rattlesnake Mountain near Hiouchi!

An August 2020 report indicated that the route was generally passable, but "there were several trees down per mile, and very few have been cut." The U.S. Forest Service no longer maintains this trail. However, members of the Yurok people do limited maintenance.

Approximate length: 4.9 miles

Camp Creek Trail (#5E04)

Accesses Head Camp, an old gold mining area. Note that the current western trailhead is a half mile farther down the access road than shown on topographic maps. The initial part of the trail follows a decommissioned roadbed. The western leg formerly received some use from the holders of mining claims with cabins at Head Camp, and occasional maintenance by them, but they haven't been active in recent years. This leg may still get occasional maintenance by the national forest's fisheries crew.

Road access to the western trailhead logged out summer 2022, except for one log blocking approximately the last 200 yards of the road. The western leg of the trail is in fair condition as of July 2023. The eastern leg (rising from the east bank of the creek) is no longer discernible at the eastern trailhead, and the route ascends very steep terrain. (Updated July 2023.)

Approximate length: 3.2 miles

Devils Backbone Trail (#12W02 or 6E03)

Provides access to a remote part of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Spectacular scenery. The north end of the trail begins at a junction with the Salmon Summit Trail (#6E03), on a ridgetop 200 yards south of the southern intersection of that trail with the Red Cap Lake Trail. The Devils Backbone Trail continues south, mostly staying close to the ridge line, passing Eightmile Camp, then Onemile Camp, and ending at a junction with the Onemile Trail (#6E17 or 12W02), the Lipps Camp Trail (#6E01), and the Soldier Creek Trail (#7E01). Due to its remoteness, this trail is not frequently maintained. As reported on August 18, 2011 at www.facebook.com/trinityalps/, the trail from Eightmile Camp (some distance south from the start of the trail at Salmon Summit Trail) to somewhat north of Onemile Camp had recently been restored by a California Conservation Corps crew under contract with the USFS. In July 2018, Mike McFadin, the Wilderness Trails Manager for the Weaverville Ranger District, Trinity National Forest, reported that when he hiked the trail in 2016, it wasn't in bad shape, with only a modest number of trees down. Nevertheless, there was substantial regrowth of brush after the 2011 work. Most of the length of the trail burned over in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire, taking care of much of the brush problem. Furthermore, fire crews improved some of the trail

for access and constructed fire line along or near much of the trail, but never finished that work before the fire escaped containment. Crews restored the correct alignment of the trail in the vicinity of Eightmile Camp. Switchback turns in this area may be obscure, such that it may be easy to take a wrong route staying on the top of the ridge. Starting from the north at Peak 6565 as shown on topographic maps, the trail first heads west crossing a burned off south-facing slope, then upon regaining the ridge line makes a sharp switchback turn left, then makes another sharp switchback to the right, and then in the middle of a meadow makes a final sharp switchback to the left. Parts of the trail both north and south of Onemile Camp may require excellent route-finding skills to follow. Small but potentially troublesome brush patches remain south of Onemile Camp. The trail is managed jointly by the Lower Trinity and Weaverville Ranger Districts. (Updated October 2021.)

Approximate length: 7.3 miles

East Fork Blue Creek Trail (#4E09)

NOTE: The Nickowitz Peak Rd. to the trailhead is subject to closure during the rainy season and well into spring to combat spread of the Port Orford-cedar pathogen. Inquire about the road status at the Orleans Ranger District office. In most years, it opens June 1, and closes after the first one inch fall of rain in autumn. Fallen rocks and small logs often litter both the paved and unpaved sections of the road, so use extra caution driving and be prepared to do at least a bit of self-service clearing. A high clearance vehicle is strongly advised.

Siskiyou Wilderness trail. Beautiful high country scenery and low visitor use. This trail furnishes access to a section of creek bottom that supports a stand of very large Douglas-fir, and one of the finest stands of Port Orford-cedar on the Six Rivers National Forest. The trailhead is marked by the remains of a signboard that has fallen apart from bear damage and weather. The trail begins by descending a steep series of switchbacks through a regenerating forest on a decades-old cut block. As it enters old growth forest, it intersects an older section of trail (abandoned and unrecognizable from that point east), and continues west high above the creek, finally descending gradually. This north facing slope supports many stands of rhododendron that bloom profusely in early June. The trail then crosses the creek five times. Watch closely for the crossing points, as they may be obscure. In summer, the crossings are ordinarily no more than knee deep, and the water not too swift. The crossings generally require wading at any time of year, so bring wetable footwear. The trail then begins a long ascent of the ridge to the north. The continuation of the trail here is known as the Forks of Blue Trail—see the separate entry for that trail.

Summer 2025, the approach road is in the best shape we've ever seen it. Trail fully brushed out between 2016 and 2020. Minimal additional maintenance performed June and August 2021. As of June 2025, there are occasional easy stepover logs, mostly along the first mile of the trail, and there are several large firs down, a little difficult to get over. Between the first and the last of the creek crossings, there are several large logs to clamber over or go around. Again minimally brushed out

June 2025. The brush grows fast along the initial switchbacks. It's all readily passable for hikers, for now. The trail is not currently passable for equestrians.

Maintenance expected late season 2025. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 1.9 miles

Fish Lake Trail (#4E54)

Trail around lake at developed U.S. Forest Service campground. Camping, boating, and fishing opportunities. Connects to several other trails for nice day hike opportunities. Stock not permitted. Maintenance performed summer 2021. As of May 2025, in decent condition, but a little overgrown. (Updated July 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.6 mile

Forks of Blue Trail (#4E07)

Siskiyou Wilderness trail. Beautiful high country scenery and solitude. Low visitor use.

The trail begins at the G-O Rd. (which dead ends to the north, it is not a through road). As of June 2025, the posts of the trailhead signboard have rotted out, and it's fallen flat on the ground, so it's no longer prominently visible driving the road. The trail undulates through forest and meadows, passing a scenic viewpoint on a serpentine bald along the way (at about 1 1/4 miles in), goes through some boggy areas supporting the remnants of stands of large Port Orford-cedar, mostly killed in the 2023 Six Rivers Lightning Complex fire, then drops to a low saddle, then climbs and follows a long ridge line bearing south. Near the high point approximately five miles in, the trail contours left across the slope, then turns right to descend a small wooded valley. Watch closely for the point at which the trail veers west out of the valley. It then crosses a brushy slope, and begins a long descent to East Fork Blue Creek. The continuation of the trail past the first creek crossing is known as the East Fork Blue Creek Trail—see the separate entry for that trail.

Directly across the road from the trailhead is a very short trail leading downhill in the direction of Flint Valley, with great displays of wildflowers well into summer.

The Siskiyou Mountain Club thoroughly rehabilitated the trail in August 2020, including a full logout. It is mostly pleasant walking. However, the 2023 Six Rivers Lightning Complex heavily affected parts of the first few miles of the trail. Early parts of the trail are now littered with a moderate amount of deadfall. There are long stretches of narrow and precarious tread after the boggy section, approaching the drop to the south-trending ridge. Tread restoration has not been done in the brushy area where the steep descent at the end of the ridge starts (past the small wooded valley). There has probably been vigorous regrowth of brush in this area, but we have no recent report. The last section descending to the creek was not been fully brushed out in 2020, but as of then was all passable for hikers, and with care for equestrians. In a few spots with knee-high brush, the trail

along this last section may be hard to see. Use of a good GPS track is suggested. An accurate path in KML format is available at KlamathMountainTrails.us. Topographic maps show some important details of the trail location inaccurately. In many places along its length, there are now logs across the trail--most are easy to go over or under for hikers, but some are difficult barriers for stock. Maintenance is expected late season 2025.

Note that the connecting East Fork Blue Creek Trail is *not* currently stock passable. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length: 8.0 miles

LePerron Peak Trail (#6E07)

Short trail up the ridge from the saddle northeast of LePerron Peak. Condition unknown.

Approximate length: 0.7 mile

Lubbs Trail (#6E10)

This trail is open to motorcycles, small 4-wheeled OHVs, and mountain bikes. Very light use. In recent years it was very brushy and difficult to use, but it was opened up as a fire line during the 2020 Red Salmon Fire. From the top, the route as shown on topographic maps is an old skid trail, now severely overgrown. The only practical route is to follow the fire line starting at the edge of the road about 1/10 mile southeast of where maps depict the trail starting. In rehabilitating the fire line, crews made no effort to reestablish a good trail tread. (Updated August 2022.)

Approximate length: 2.4 miles

Old Red Mountain Lake Trail

An alternative to part of the Red Mountain Lake Trail. Logged out and general maintenance done July 2021. However, as of May 2025 there are some large logs down across lower parts of the trail. Otherwise in decent condition. (Updated July 2025.)

Approx. length: 1.0 mile

Onemile Trail (#6E17 or 12W02)

This trail begins at a four way junction with the Horse Trail Ridge Trail (#6E08) and the Crogan Basin Trail (#6E16), and connects to the Devils Backbone Trail (#12W02) and the Lipps Camp Trail

(#6E01), offering loop trip possibilities. Part of a historic supply route that connected the coast to inland mining communities. Managed jointly by the Orleans District and the Weaverville District. No recent maintenance. A large part of the terrain that the trail traverses burned intensely in recent years' fires. Brush then grew back vigorously. Most of this burned off again in the 2020 Red Salmon Fire, such that the trail should be usable for the time being. Fire crews used the trail for access, but constructed fire line on ridges rather than directly on the route of the trail. It can be seen in aerial imagery that a patch of heavy brush remains starting where the trail makes a left hand switchback turn, as one descends, about a mile from the top. At this point, as a bypass, use of the fire line along the ridge for less than 0.2 mile is suggested. (Updated October 2021.)

Approximate length: 1.5 miles

Orleans Mountain Trail (South) (#6E03 or 6E04)

In the Salmon Mountains range. Two separate forks of this trail branch north off the Salmon Summit Trail, the first near its trailhead passing through a stock camp, and the second, from a signed junction at Whiteys Camp a quarter mile later. These soon join. After about a mile, the trail intersects Road 10N10A, not marked on most maps, coming in from a saddle on the main ridge of the Salmon Mountains to the southeast. One can follow the road for a mile or more, until the road departs the main ridge and continues to the northwest. From here, the route continues north following the main ridge, mostly on little-used jeep trails. There is one short section of foot trail in the middle, starting at a large log landing and continuing to the crossing of Road #10N10 in the saddle with elevation 4335 as marked on topographic maps. The jeep trail continues all the way to the summit of Orleans Mountain and the fire lookout.

The foot trail section at the south end is passable and partially flagged. However, there are many logs down, mostly small, and parts of the trail are moderately brushy. For a short section through deep forest, the trail tread has disappeared and there are no clear signs of the direction to proceed, although it is fairly easy walking through only light undergrowth. Use of a GPS device is suggested. (Updated August 2019.)

Approximate length, southern trail segment only: 1.1 miles

Pearch Creek Trail

This description is included only because a dead end route here is shown on some published maps. They show a trail starting in the Pearch Creek Campground. This is incorrect. Instead, a jeep trail, not shown on any published map, leaves Highway 96 300 yards southwest of the Pearch Creek Campground entrance. A gate at the start is usually locked. The jeep trail climbs a small ridge, then descends gently to the south bank of rather pretty Pearch Creek. It follows the bank, crosses the South Fork of Pearch Creek, and soon thereafter ends at a rickety foot bridge crossing the main fork, about 0.9 mile from the start. This is at the source of a water system serving homes in Orleans. Despite what maps would indicate, there isn't much of a trail past the foot bridge. (Updated May 2019.)

Prospect Trail (#6E02)

Sometimes called the "Prospect Hill Trail." Passes through a mixed evergreen forest and some interesting serpentine bunchgrass prairies. Long stretches of the trail follow old ditches that were used in early days to carry water for use in hydraulic mining. There are other relics of mining activity to be seen. Starting from the upper trailhead, shortly before the trail starts its steep descent east, there are great views of the canyon of the Klamath River. Suitable for year-round use.

The upper trailhead is at a wide turnout or spur 0.2 mile past the milepost 6 sign on the right (or east) side of the G-O Rd. Currently, there is no sign marking the entrance to the parking area, the large road sign that was formerly there having been stolen. The trail, marked by a small temporary sign, departs from the southeastern corner of the parking area. It starts out level, and closely follows a former ditch for over two miles, with some steep descents through ravines where there used to be flumes for the ditch. The trail then turns to the left and begins a long, steep descent, very steep at times, first going down a long ridge, and then switchbacking to the lower trailhead on Ishi Pishi Rd. A wooden post sign, visible from the road, marks this trailhead. It is a short distance north of the county refuse disposal site. Be aware that knee-high poison oak is abundant along the top section of the trail. Sensitive individuals have come down with raging cases of rash here--by all means wear long pants! There are some short, spectacularly steep spots on this trail, mostly but not all along the lower third of its length.

A 0.1 mile continuation of the trail on the other side of Ishi Pishi Rd. can be used for river access. Fisherman sometimes refer to this as the "Bonda Trail."

The main trail was fully logged out, and light general maintenance was performed June 2022, placing it in mostly good condition. As of October 2023, there were a few logs down across the lower part of the trail, before it started the ascent straight up the side ridge, but they were easy for hikers to negotiate. The lower half of the trail remains difficult for stock, due to some tight spots. Sections of tread here are narrow and a bit precarious. Basic maintenance done on the lower half mile, June 2024, in good condition; the rest of the trail hasn't been inspected in 2024 or 2025. The river access extension was clear as of September 2024. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length (excluding the extension to the river): 4.5 miles

Red Cap Creek River Access Trail (#5E06)

Short access trail that reaches the Klamath River, across the river from the mouth of Red Cap Creek. The trailhead is marked by a large sign. In fair to good condition down to the river (maintenance done early summer 2024), but rapid growth of blackberries and willows makes continuing down river from there difficult. (Updated June 2024.)

Approximate length: 0.6 mile

Red Cap Lake Trail (#6E03A)

Trail branches off the Salmon Summit Trail, furnishing access to Red Cap Lake 1.4 miles from the junction. The trail continues past Red Cap Lake to the top of the ridge, on a good set of switchbacks that climb lazily through meadow and open forest, but they get little use and the route is faint. The start of the route at the lake is invisible. Where the trail coming in from the north approaches the main campsite at the edge of the lake, make nearly a 180 degree turn to the left. Climb at a gentle angle across the slope, and the trail should eventually become apparent. Use of a GPS track to find the start of the trail is suggested. Do not plunge into the brush in the drainage leading straight uphill from the head of the lake. The switchbacks stay considerably north of this drainage. Topographic maps are inaccurate.

The north segment was fully logged out to the lake 2020, then the Red Salmon Fire came through later in the summer. As of July 2022, the route was stock passable with obstacles to negotiate. Reportedly, as of summer 2023, there are a lot of down trees. Much of the southern continuation is hard to discern, due to slippage of tread in the fire and growth of low vegetation, but there are no serious obstacles. (Updated September 2023.)

Approximate length: 2.0 miles

Red Mountain Lake Trail (#4E55)

Part of the Fish Lake recreation complex that includes a U.S. Forest Service developed campground. Connects Fish Lake and Blue Lake, both of which have vehicle access. Red Mountain Lake is only accessed by hiking. Stock not permitted. Logged out and brushed out summer 2021. As of May 2025, the brush isn't bad. A little above Fish Lake, just above where the trail crosses a maintenance road for access to the campground water supply, there is a stack of three downed trees that requires a bypass. (Updated July 2025.)

Approx. length: 1.9 miles

Salmon Summit Trail (#6E03 or 6E10)

National Recreation Trail. Outrageous vistas and access to beautiful mountain lakes with low visitor use! Reaches Red Cap Lake (via a spur, see the separate description), the Salmon Mountain area, and the heart of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Using the Devils Backbone Trail, this system of trails connects the Salmon Mountain and Trinity Summit recreation areas in the wilderness. About a mile and a quarter from the trailhead, before one reaches Indian Rocks, an unofficial path along a fire line branches north, follows the ridge right over Whiteys Peak. After approximately 1.2 miles this reaches Road 10N10A (not shown on most maps) where the road crosses a saddle. The jeep trail that formerly followed part of the route over Whiteys Peak has been fully decommissioned. Some distance south of Indian Rocks, the Salmon Summit Trail reaches the northern intersection of the Red Cap Lake Trail (2.9 miles from the trailhead). Some distance after, as the trail crosses the southwest face of Salmon Mountain, it becomes an old road bed. Watch out for the indistinct

junction at which the faint Salmon Summit Trail leaves this road bed and angles downhill toward High Spring. The peak of Salmon Mountain, the highest point in Humboldt County, can be reached from here by continuing a short distance on the old road bed, and then turning uphill to make a crosscountry scramble. If one instead continues on the trail, High Spring is a small, boggy puddle, though reliable enough to support a small, junky campsite. After another quarter mile past High Spring, one reaches the southern junction of the Red Cap Lake Trail. A further 200 yards, following another old road bed, brings one to the junction of the Devils Backbone Trail. Here the Salmon Summit Trail turns sharply left downhill, and passes out of the ranger district.

From the trailhead to the lake spur, the trail was logged out in 2020. Then later that summer the entire Orleans District part of the trail burned over in the Red Salmon Fire. As of July 2022, there are occasional down logs, but the entire Orleans District segment is hikeable and stock passable, with caveats. Parts of the trail past the first Red Cap Lake junction are getting brushy. Past High Spring, the trail tread disappears entirely for a long stretch, nearly to the second Red Cap Lake junction, but post-fire the way is open. Just follow the ridge. (Updated August 2022.)

Approximate length (section within ranger district, as described): 4.2 miles

Short Ranch Trail

This route (in the Boise Creek drainage near LePerron Flat) is not a Forest Service-maintained trail, and has probably received no maintenance in many decades. Passes through Short Ranch, a private homestead.

Approximate length: 1.8 miles

Whitmore Creek River Access Trail (#6E72)

Short river access trail, mainly for fishing. Reaches the mouth of Whitmore Creek at the confluence with the Klamath River.

Approximate length: 1.8 miles

UKONOM RANGER DISTRICT:

Bald Butte Trail (#5860)

A bridle path, with both main and alternate routes, mostly used by guests of the Marble Mountain Ranch, and maintained by staff of that facility.

Approximate length (including all branches): 2.4 miles

Black Mountain Trail (#7E20 or 5824)

This extremely steep route is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail, and has not received maintenance in many decades. Most would consider it indiscernible at this point. If you can find the trail at all, expect many deadfalls and thick brush.

Bridge Creek Trail (#7E08 or 5816)

This long trail rises from Wooley Creek Trail near Fowler Cabin, and climbs thousands of feet to intersect with the Haypress Trail. It follows the valley of Bridge Creek the whole way, and exposes the visitor to a variety of forest types, from lowland mixed evergreen hardwood-Douglas-fir-pine forest to higher elevation Shasta fir forest. The first trailside water is found at 2 ½ miles in from the south end--a reliable cool and cascading side creek, not shown on most topographic maps. The log crossing where the trail switches to the west side of Bridge Creek, north of Snowslide Gulch, washed away in a June 2023 thunderstorm. Now it is necessary to wade the creek. This may be hazardous early in the season, with high water. There is a small campsite at the crossing. There is good camping at Cedar Flat, and at a number of other locations between there and the Pleasant Lake Trail junction.

From near the top of the trail, it is possible to start a cross-country trek to Deadman Lake. Contrary to some published maps, sometimes even showing an official USFS route number, *there is no trail to Deadman Lake*, although with careful route selection, a hiker will encounter only minor difficulties getting there. The cross-country route is not passable for stock.

In summer 2022, the Siskiyou Mountain Club completed a rehabilitation of the segment of the trail starting at Fowler Cabin and ending at Cedar Flat. Logged out for approximately the first 1.4 miles up from Fowler Cabin, April 2025. Here, sections of brush are getting thicker. In early 2024, the SMC had logged out and partially brushed out the trail for a short distance past there. Thereafter, to the point at which the trail makes a sharp right turn to go back into Yellow Jacket Cr., there were only two groups of logs down as of summer 2024. One, about a half mile past the camp, requires a pack-off squeeze through between two horizontal logs. The area of an old burn approaching the turn into Yellow Jacket Cr. has been vigorously resprouting snowbrush ceanothus and willows. A September 2025 hiker's reports stated that the trail from Fowler Cabin to Snowslide Gulch was in fair condition, except that as to the old burn section, "There's a long bit of terrible brush barely walkable (and in rain was a total soaking carwash)." There is pack-off tunneling required to get through a tangle of downed small trees at Snowslide Gulch, where a terrific thunderstorm in June 2023 caused a flash flood flattening the riparian vegetation that formerly made this a cool, shady spot to rest. The same thunderstorm led to a high flow scouring the channel of the main stem of Bridge Creek in this area. This washed away the logs that one could formerly use to go over the creek at the trail crossing north of Snowslide Gulch. Now it is necessary to ford the creek, which may be hazardous at times of high water. We have no report of conditions along the rest of the trail in 2024 or after.

Despite the 2022 work, areas of very narrow, side-sloping trail tread remain starting at the top of the first rise from Fowler Cabin, and continuing to the vicinity of Snowslide Gulch.

North from Cedar Flat to the junction with Haypress Trail, logged out summer 2022; a couple of logs remain that are easy to get around, and there is some minor to moderate brush. High in the drainage, the trail crosses a broad, sandy sloping meadow. Here the trail has historically been faint and often hard to follow, even "indistinguishable," but the ground is open, and progress will not be a problem for those who know the route or pay close attention to the map or a GPS track.

North from the old horse camp two miles north of Fowler Cabin, not stock passable, due to down logs and multiple other issues. Possibly stock passable from Cedar Flat north. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 10.2 miles

Bull Pine Mine Trail

A bridle path, with both main and alternate routes, mostly used by guests of the Marble Mountain Ranch, and maintained by staff of that facility.

Approximate length (including all branches): 4.7 miles

Burney Lake Trail (#11W21B or 5848)

Extends into the Happy Camp Ranger District. Rough, steep, primitive trail. As of summer 2020, reported to be stock passable, with caution. As of summer 2024, reported to be very rough, lots of brush. A September 2025 hiker's report said that it was passable for hikers, at least. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.6 miles

Butler Mountain Trail (##7E15 & 7E39, or #5826)

This is part of the historic route up the Salmon River. From gold rush days until the construction of the Salmon River Road crossing the Grant Bluffs in the 1920s, the trail was the only access up river to reach Forks of Salmon, Sawyers Bar, and points beyond. One can see that portions of the trail remain deeply incised from the hooves of thousands of pack trains that once traveled the trail to reach mines and settlements up river. For the northern trailhead, park 0.2 mile south of the Salmon River Road bridge that crosses Butler Creek, at a prominent pullout on the river side of the road. Someone has destroyed the sign in a tree that marked the start of the trail. It's on the other side of the road, 30 feet up river (south). The trail initially follows a short unpaved road spur, blocked off with boulders, that climbs steeply. Where this road curves left, the trail turns to the right. Watch for the opening through the blackberries. The first 0.6 mile of the trail borders private property, so

please stay on the trail. After mostly going through forest, at 0.9 mile in, the trail reaches a ridge with views up Butler Creek and across the river to Tom Payne and Portuguese Peaks. The trail continues to ascend, topping out at a saddle between the Butler Creek and Lewis Creek drainages. The descent south is attractive in spring, and has views up Lewis Creek and across Salmon River. The southern trailhead just north of Lewis Creek is easy to spot, with the trail switchbacking up a short, open slope across the road from a home. The start of the trail here is marked by a sign in a tree, if no one has taken it. Watch out for abundant poison oak in many places, especially on the Lewis Creek side--trimmed back to the extent possible, but it regrows quickly.

Basic clearing of the full length of the trail performed between 2023 and 2025. Many larger down logs remained, scattered along the length of the trail, mostly pretty easy for hikers to get over or under. In July 2025, essentially the entire length of the trail burned over in the Butler Fire. No inspection completed since then. The fire was mostly well behaved, but there was some spotty stand-clearing crown fire. The trail will require full rehabilitation. The good news is that much of the brush and some of the down logs will have burned off. The bad news is that a lot of failed trail tread is to be expected. There were already sections of failing or very narrow trail tread high on the Butler Creek side, and in many locations on the Lewis Creek side. The trail has not been stock passable, due to down logs and a few places with inadequate tread or right-of-way width. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length: 4.4 miles

Butler Mountain-Orleans Mountain Trail (#7E15)

As shown on old maps, this route branches west from the Butler Mountain Trail at the saddle west of Butler Mountain. From there, it climbs straight up a ridge. Finally it intersects the Orleans Mountain Trail. Despite the route having an assigned Forest Service trail number, at the lower (eastern) starting point there is now absolutely no sign of any trail tread or of any past clearing. No trail along any part of the route is discernible from aerial photographs, new or old. If there was ever a trail on this alignment, it must have been very primitive and it has long since faded away. Much of the route was adversely affected by the 2013 Butler Fire. (Updated August 2021.)

Approximate length: 2.7 miles

Camp Three Trail (#7E13)

This extremely steep route is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail, and has not received maintenance in many decades. If you can find the trail at all, expect many deadfalls and thick brush.

Cascade Falls Trail

Short river access trail--technically a spectacularly steep and precipitous jeep trail, attempting to drive not advised!

Approximate length: 0.2 mile

Creek Path

This very short access to Wooley Creek near its mouth starts near the end of the stub of the Steinacher Creek Road, off an unpaved road loop at the ridge line dividing the Salmon River and Wooley Creek watersheds. There is no sign--vandals cut it down. The trail is steep and has some very narrow, precarious spots. Use caution traveling with children, as there are sheer dropoffs, and there is quite a bit of poison oak. Not suitable for stock. Annual maintenance done 2025, in good condition. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.1 mile

Cuddihy Lakes Trail (#7E29 or 5825)

This spur connects the Haypress Trail with Cuddihy Lakes. As of mid-summer 2025, the trail was reported to be passable for hikers. It is probably passable for stock, as packers usually clear deadfalls each year. However, there may be debris on the trail. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.8 mile

Cuddihy Valley Trail (#5838)

This spur branches off the Cuddihy Lakes Trail (#7E29 or 5825) about 0.6 mile in. After 0.2 miles, it reaches the Cuddihy Lakes stock camp. The continuation to Cuddihy Valley has been logged out and somewhat improved in June 2020, well enough to be stock passable. Some of the route may be vague and hard to follow. (Updated July 2020.)

Approximate length: 0.8 mile

Halfmoon Meadow Trail (#7E09 or 5818)

This trail runs for several miles from its start at the Haypress Trail by Halfmoon Creek. It initially passes several branches of Halfmoon Meadow. It then starts traversing a mixed conifer forest across a slope dropping to the south. After climbing to a divide, it enters the watershed of Bridge Creek, and views of Medicine Mountain open up. From here to Bridge Creek Trail, near Cedar Flat, the Halfmoon Meadow Trail slowly drops, with many undulations, passing alternately through burned forest and areas of impressive standing old growth forest. Watch for an especially large incense cedar about 1.8 miles from the start of the trail.

As of August 2022, there were 50 to 100 logs down across the trail. For hikers, some of the logs were moderately difficult to clamber over or under, making the hike strenuous with a full pack. Most were easy stepovers. Apart from the down logs, basic clearing done on the segment of trail in the Bridge Creek watershed only, August 2022. No work has been done recently on the segment of trail in the Halfmoon Creek watershed. The full length of the trail has been suffering from continuing frequent deadfalls and growth of brush, and is now in bad condition. A September 2025 hiker's report said, "The trail disappears through burn and is rarely to be seen." It has been hikeable for the tough, but no part of it is remotely stock passable. There is a real doozy of a stock stopper right in the crossing of the creek that flows from Horse Pocket--any equestrians thinking of attempting the journey should know that they will not be able to remove this with a saw. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 3.9 miles

Halverson Tr. (#5806)

A short portion of this trail is maintained for river access. This is part of the historic trail to Happy Camp up the west side of the Klamath River. The maintained portion is in fair to good condition; maintenance done early summer 2024. The route to the river follows a short spur angling down to the right. At the junction, the continuation of the main trail is visible, but can be seen to be thoroughly blocked by fallen material and growth of vegetation. (Updated June 2024.)

Approximate length (maintained section): 0.4 mile

Haypress Trail (#11W21 or 5828) (AKA Sandy Ridge Trail or Salmon Mountains Trail)

This is the primary western access to the high country of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. The trail starts at the Camp Four Trailhead (*no camping facilities*, this was the name of a logging camp). It initially climbs through forest, including areas of beautiful, open, old growth forest, mostly on a gentle grade, then drops to Trail Meadow. Just beyond, a newly-fallen log makes for an easy crossing of Haypress Creek for hikers, until a flood displaces it. Soon the trail meets the Stanshaw Meadows and Let'er Buck Trails. It then climbs steadily to a divide and drops to Halfmoon Creek and junctions with the Torgerson Meadow and Halfmoon Meadow Trails.

From that point, the trail begins a long, steady, tough climb. One passes a short spur to Round Meadow (trail #5843), with a campsite. Then there is a fine spring just before the trail makes a switchback left. *(This is the last reliable trailside water along Haypress Tr. until past the Burney Lake junction. Otherwise, you must go down one of the lake spur trails for water.)* The climb ends at the top of Sandy Ridge, where views open up and one truly enters the high country. Soon after is the upper junction with the McCash Loop. *(Maps show the site of historic Pickle Camp nearby. There is no longer any discernible campsite at this location, and there is no trail to it. There may be water available in the watercourse downhill from this site. There is one small pool in that drainage, but it may dry up late in the season. Also, there are two small lakes in rocky terrain a rough quarter mile trek to the south, that seem to be permanent.)*

Continuing on the trail, before long one reaches the spur downhill to the south to popular Monument Lake. Just before this spur, a winter snowbank may linger, blocking the trail where it crosses the cirque high above the lake. It is possible to bypass this by ascending the north-trending ridge, and then descending from the high point east to rejoin the trail. This may be difficult for stock. Another few miles brings one to junctions with the unofficial trail descending to Hells Meadows (if traveling westbound, watch closely for this possibly obscure, unsigned fork, and don't go the wrong way), a spur to Meteor Lake, then the Bridge Creek Trail, then trails to Onemile Lake and beyond, to Granite Meadow, and to Cuddihy Lakes. Where the trail crosses the cirque above Cuddihy Lakes is another spot where a winter snowbank may linger. This can be hazardous, and there is no bypass. A small stream can sometimes be found west of the first switchback down the Cuddihy Lakes Tr. Nearly three miles past, one reaches the rough spur to Burney Lake. There is usually a good stream of clear water cascading down the granite just past this junction, though it may dry up in late summer. The trail leaves the Ukonom Ranger District shortly before Spirit Lake. For information on the trail past that point, contact the Salmon-Scott Rivers Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest at (530) 468-5351.

Most equestrians choose to begin their trip at the Stanshaw Trailhead. While a moderately longer route, the Stanshaw Meadows Trail is maintained in a condition better for pack stock. The Stanshaw Trailhead has corrals, space for large trailers, and camping facilities (though water only for stock).

For a video segment with scenic views, and showing the condition of much of the trail from the start to Meteor Lake, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-fKbwgv1Lk>.

Logged out and rudimentary brushing done from the trailhead to the junctions with Stanshaw Meadows Trail and Let'er Buck Trail, May 2025, courtesy of Ascend Wilderness Experience and the Bigfoot Trail Alliance. (These are a couple of great organizations that we would urge you to support.) The area of the ridge before Trail Meadow has a vigorous growth of snowbrush. There are spots where a hiker has to beat back the brush, but it's no great difficulty.

From the junction with Let'er Buck Tr., to the Monument Lake junction, well brushed out and logged out by the Siskiyou Mountain Club, June 2025--tricked out, and 160 logs cut. This part of the trail has become a maintenance headache. Beginning at the high point where the trail turns into the Halfmoon Creek watershed, past the creek crossing, and starting up the slope on the other side, there was nearly 100% mortality of large trees in the 2017 Haypress Fire. The snags have been rotting

since then, and are now coming down in large numbers. With this area exposed to the sun, there has been vigorous growth of snowbrush ceanothus. But the trail is good for now.

The trail past Monument Lake, as far as the Cuddihy Lakes junction, was logged out summer 2021. Then the late summer 2021 McCash Fire burned over the section of trail starting shortly before Monument Lake and ending at the crest west of Cuddihy Lakes. Reportedly, many slopes were reduced to ash, and the trail tread has become difficult to find in places. However, the way forward should be obvious. There are 10 to 15 logs down. Not much brush. The final descent to the Cuddihy Lakes Trail is suffering water erosion, and had reportedly become messy with fallen material as of June 2022.

From the Cuddihy Lakes junction, past Spirit Lake, and continuing to the junction with the Marble Rim Trail or beyond, a CCC crew performed full maintenance in July 2022. Logged out, Cuddihy Lakes junction to the end, summer 2025. A September 2025 hiker's report stated that this part of the trail was in fine condition.

The maintenance responsibility of the Ukonom Ranger District ends at the summit just west of Spirit Lake. For the latest information on the condition of the trail past that point, users are strongly advised to contact the Salmon-Scott Rivers Ranger District at (530) 468-5351.

The old lower extension of the Haypress Trail (below the Camp Four Trailhead, approx. 0.9 mile long) is in fair condition, mostly pleasant walking, though not easily stock passable due to down logs. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 19.1 miles (starting at Camp Four Trailhead, including the portion past the ranger district boundary, and ending at the Pacific Crest Trail)

Approximate length of Round Meadow spur: 0.1 mile

Ishi Pishi Bridge Tr. (#5808)

Short river access trail.

Approximate length: 0.1 mile

Let'er Buck Trail (#7E12 or 5821)

This is a scenic alternative to the first part of the Haypress Trail. It is a primitive trail, and has some very steep ups and downs, but when clear of obstacles presents no real difficulties for hikers or stock. The trail starts out through forested country. One passes a number of impressive old sugar pines, though sadly many were killed in the 2017 Haypress Fire. After approximately three-quarters of a mile, the trail passes the end of a spur road. This road can be used as an alternate starting point for hikes or rides, but periodically gets blocked by fallen trees and is not maintained to a high standard. From this point, the trail begins climbing steeply, then eventually drops very steeply to cross the first

of several meadows. The rest of the trail undulates and crosses both wet and dry meadows, which have ever-changing displays of wildflowers through the summer. The crossing of Let'er Buck Meadow can be confusing. In either direction, cross the very boggy meadow in a straight line past the solitary tree in the middle of the meadow. The trail ends at Haypress Trail, just above the junction with Stanshaw Meadows Trail.

For the first 1 ½ miles, logged out and partial brushing done, May 2025, courtesy of the Bigfoot Trail Alliance. Still brushy in spots. Partial logging out of the rest of the trail by Ascend Wilderness Experience, May 2025. For that last mile, there's still some timber down, but the trail is passable for hikers, and for stock with some bypasses. Note that due to light use and the rain of small debris, with time, the trail tread and the way forward tend to become vague in places. Confusing points flagged July 2025. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length: 2.4 miles

McCash Loop (#7E19 or 5823)

This trail provides access to Big Meadow and Long Meadow, with a number of good campsites, mostly undulating through forest along the meadow margins. From the lower trailhead, the trail first makes one short meadow crossing, and enters a sandy flat, the location of Jims Camp. The trail then ascends the rest of Big Meadow, climbs over a low ridge separating it from Long Meadow, and descends to skirt that meadow. Watch closely for the right turn to descend to the crossing of the Long Meadow outlet creek. At the top of Long Meadow, the trail makes a ridiculously steep ascent. It then follows the ridge top, with views to the north, passing a junction with Torgerson Meadow Trail. After another climb, and then a short drop from the top of Sandy Ridge, it reaches the Haypress Trail.

Frankly, this trail is pretty far gone. Essentially the full length was affected by the 2017 Haypress Fire, and again by the 2021 McCash Fire. Logged out 2019. Apparently no maintenance since then. There's currently a group of trees blown down across the trail right at the Stanshaw Meadows Trail junction--easy enough to get around. The route through the branches of Big Meadow is extremely vague. If you can find them, old single plank crossings of wet parts of the meadow, although broken down, still function to allow you to keep your feet dry. The route over the divide to Long Meadow is very hard to discern. It's affected by blowdowns and elk trails shortcutting the route. The trail has been mostly clear skirting Long Meadow and then climbing the steep grade above. Past that point, the trail enters an area in which the remaining standing and down timber was almost totally incinerated in the 2017 Haypress Fire. In places, this wiped out all evidence of the trail, and its exact location may be very hard to determine. We have no recent report of the extent of regrowth of brush. Where the ground remains open, travel is readily possible, if you know the general direction that you want to go. Use of a GPS track may be advisable. As of 2020, a handful of small trees were newly fallen east of the totally obscure Torgerson Meadow Trail junction. Uphill of there, at the point at which the ridge steepens, the trail turns left and ascends at an angle across the north face of the ridge. Watch closely for this. The last part of the trail descending from the high point to the junction with Haypress Trail is indiscernible--just go the direction you need to go across open terrain, going around fallen trees as necessary. The sign at the upper junction burned in the 2017 Haypress Fire, leaving

only a few bolts in a standing charred trunk as evidence. If you are starting from this junction, angle westward up the slope a short distance, then drop to a minor saddle, at which point the trail drops to the north slope of the ridge. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 4.2 miles

Medicine Mountain Trail (#7E11 or 5820)

This dead end route from Bridge Creek Trail at Cedar Flat to the top of Medicine Mountain has been allowed to revert to a very primitive status, and doesn't receive regular maintenance. There is one exception. The first tenth of a mile of the trail, crossing Bridge Creek to a good campsite, has been maintained to a good standard. However, there are two large logs down on this piece of the trail--questionable for stock. From the campsite onward, the trail is not advised for stock. As of 2014, there were a number of down logs along the entire route, and finding the route was difficult in places, particularly at one point high on Medicine Mountain where the trail had completely disappeared due to the effects of a past blowdown and a subsequent intense fire. A July 2018 report stated that there was moderate brush in places before Buns Basin, and that above that point there was fairly dense brush along much of the route and there were a number of deadfalls. Those who know the way will be able to get through, though. (Updated August 2018.)

Approximate length: 3.0 miles

Meteor Lake Trail (#11W21D or 5830)

This spur connects the Haypress Trail to Meteor Lake. It was logged out in early summer 2021, putting it in fair to good condition. But after this, the whole Meteor Lake basin burned intensely in the 2021 McCash Fire, with 100 percent forest mortality on higher slopes. The trail is usable, but expect debris. It is probably stock passable, as packers usually clear deadfalls each year. The forest immediately fringing the lake, and in the area of campsites, remains attractive. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.8 mile

Monument Lake Trail (#11W21E or 5831)

This spur connects the Haypress Trail to Monument Lake. Logged out early summer 2021, placing the trail in fair to good condition. The area of the trail was lightly affected by the 2021 McCash Fire. As of summer 2025, there are three logs down across the trail. It is probably stock passable, as packers usually clear deadfalls each year. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.7 mile

Ogaromtoc Lake Trail (#5857)

Short lakeside trail.

Onemile Lake Trail (#11W21C or 5814)

This spur connects the Haypress Trail with Onemile Lake. It was logged out early summer 2021, placing the trail in fair to good condition. But after this, the whole Onemile Lake basin burned intensely in the 2021 McCash Fire, with 100 percent forest mortality, except right at the main campsite at the head of the lake. As of mid-summer 2025, the trail was reported to be passable for hikers. It is probably passable for stock, as packers usually clear deadfalls each year. However, there may be debris on the trail. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 1.0 mile

Orleans Mountain Trail (East) (#7E16)

The start of this trail is at the last flat spot to the right of the Nordheimer Creek Rd. about 100 feet from where that road leaves Salmon River Rd., and is marked by a sign in a tree. The trail climbs steadily, initially up a set of switchbacks through attractive rocky barrens with wildflower displays in spring and views of distant peaks opening up, later for the most part continuously following a ridge top. Eventually the route becomes a little-used jeep trail that winds up the basin forming the headwaters of Butler Creek. The final climb brings one to the road from Antenna Ridge. A left turn here brings one to the summit of Orleans Mountain and the fire lookout in another 3/4 mile. There is a maze of old fire lines and faint old trails in the headwaters of Butler and Hammel Creeks. None of the published maps are accurate or helpful. It is 5000 vertical feet from the level of Salmon River to the top of Orleans Mountain.

Short of the steep climb to the junction with the Butler Mountain-Orleans Mountain Trail, maps show a second branch of the trail contouring southwest, staying a few hundred feet below the line of the ridge. From aerial photographs this route now appears to be extremely faint.

A Forest Service document from several decades ago noted, "The route was one of the earliest into the river country and has historical significance."

The first half mile of trail out of Nordheimer Creek received maintenance between 2019 and 2024, placing it mostly in good condition. The rest of the trail has not received maintenance in many years. That first half mile offers an interesting short hike for those staying at Nordheimer Campground. At that point, the trail enters forest. Tanoak tops have fallen on the trail, and there has been a very heavy growth of poison oak, making progress extremely difficult. However, alternatively, one could go steeply straight up the ridge on a fire line that was cleared in September 2024, during the Boise Fire. We received one report from a hiker who successfully descended the entire trail, or in places the fire line where it deviated from the trail, later in September 2024. Then the July 2025 Butler Fire burned over essentially the full length of the trail. No report received on post-fire conditions. Much

of the brush may have burned off, but expect difficult conditions. Mountain bikers posted online reports of riding the full trail downhill a few years ago, though it would not be possible at present. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length, not including the jeep trail: 6.0 miles

Pleasant Lake Trail (#7E08A or 5817)

This spur from Bridge Creek Trail furnishes access to Pleasant Lake.

About the first 0.3 mile of the trail is well constructed. After this, a 0.1 mile long spur trail leads left to a stock camp with excellent forage but limited water. Unfortunately, the area of the stock camp burned intensely in the 2021 McCash Fire, with 100 percent forest mortality, such that now it is perhaps not very attractive. From this point, the trail steepens and is very primitive. Stock camping is not advised at Pleasant Lake, due to extremely small camping space and minimal forage.

The trail mostly passes through open country, and generally sees few deadfalls. However, hikers reported in June 2018 that after the initial 0.3 mile, the trail was brushy, with "several stepover and goaround logs," though about the same as it had been for the past eight years or more. Some of that brush likely burned off in the 2021 McCash Fire. (Updated August 2022.)

Approximate length: 1.0 mile

Portuguese Peak Trail (#7E14 or 5822)

Caution: see description of condition below, the trail is essentially blocked at present 2.4 miles in from the lower trailhead.

The trail starts at the side of Steinacher Creek Road. There is a large signboard at the trailhead. After climbing through an area that burned several years ago, fully exposed to the summer sun, the trail enters a beautiful old growth forest for some distance. Historically, this trail has continued to climb to the high country of the southern Marble Mountain Wilderness, in the vicinity of Crapo Meadows. Along the way, the trail passes near the summits of Tom Payne Peak and Portuguese Peak, with spectacular views. It is a steep, dry trail that climbs over 6,000 vertical feet net, starting at the level of the Salmon River. There is no water until about a mile before the trail ends at the junction with the Crapo Trail.

In recent years, the first part of the trail has been maintained by locally-based fire crews, keeping it open for hikers and equestrians. Maintenance has extended approximately the first 2.4 miles, as far as a ridge top view point 1/10 mile past a flat at the end of the fully decommissioned Steinacher Creek Rd. Those who complete the 2400 foot vertical ascent to the ridge top at the end of the currently-maintained section will be rewarded with views of Medicine Mountain, Salmon Mountain, and other high peaks in the surrounding ranges. This is an especially attractive hike in autumn, with cooler weather, the light of the sun low in the sky casting shadows, and fall colors.

As of June 2022, there were about 20 down logs on this first 2.4 miles of trail, making travel difficult for equestrians. The last half mile or so to the old road end and beyond was in rough condition, and not suitable for equestrians. But reportedly, this first section received some work by a fire crew early summer 2025.

Just past the view point, one will begin to encounter heavy brush and down logs. It may be possible to push through a short distance beyond, but one should not underestimate the difficulties. After another half mile, the trail begins a series of switchbacks on the south face of the ridge ascending Tom Payne Peak. This area can be seen on aerial imagery to be covered with extremely heavy brush, making the continuation of the trail essentially impassable at present. It seems that the higher part of the trail has received little maintenance in decades, certainly none in recent years. As long ago as 1979, in his hiking guide "Marble Mountain Wilderness," David Green noted that some of the several short switchbacks along the trail were easy to miss, and wrote that parts of the rocky trail climbing along the crest and the south slope were "overgrown to the point of invisibility, making for a troublesome, even hazardous, descent on your return trip." Along the higher part of the trail section within the Ukonom Ranger District, aerial imagery shows a number of relatively short stretches also heavily overgrown with brush. It is also predictable that there will be many down logs in stands of timber burned in the 2006 Hancock Fire. In battling that fire, crews established hand lines along parts of the trail and adjacent ridge lines both east and west of Portuguese Peak. It may be possible to use remnants of these hand lines to make progress through or to bypass brushy areas, but on the other hand they are likely to cause confusion in finding the original trail route. The trail frequently dips down to north facing, forested slopes, so staying on the ridge will not always allow one to find the correct route. Aerial imagery shows long stretches of the trail to be quite vague or to have disappeared entirely. We know of only one party that succeeded in hiking the length of the trail in recent years, in the early 2000s. *They described it as a near death experience.* Right about the point where the trail crosses into the Salmon-Scott Rivers Ranger District, it enters high country with much less brush and timber. The trail should be much easier to follow in this area. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length (including the portion past the ranger district boundary): 10.5 miles

Reynolds River Access Trail

Short Klamath River access trail.

Approximate length: 0.3 mile

River Trail

A bridle path mostly used by guests of the Marble Mountain Ranch, and maintained by staff of that facility.

Approximate length: 0.8 mile

Rogers Creek Trail (#6E16 or 5803)

This is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail, and has not received maintenance in many decades. Staff have searched for this trail and have not succeeded in finding it.

Secret Lake Trail (#11W21C or 5829)

This very primitive trail is a continuation of the Onemile Lake Trail. It starts by following the eastern shore of Onemile Lake, crosses the narrows of the lake, climbs to a high ridge, then descends Secret Valley to deep and hidden Secret Lake. The route can be difficult to find in places. A hiker's mid-summer 2025 report said that the trail was extremely faint, but the route (on or off trail) was passable for hikers. Not recommended for stock at present. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 2.0 miles

Somes Mountain Trail (##6E18 or 5835, & 6E05 or 5804) and Salmon River Trail (#6E18 or 5835)

Somes Mountain Trail accesses the Salmon Mountains range. The first part of the trail is a pleasant walk with close views of the Salmon River, though one should beware of abundant knee-high poison oak--*shorts not recommended*. After about 3/4 mile, one reaches a signed junction with the Salmon River Trail. This trail continues up the river for another 0.4 mile, ending on a river bar opposite the Oak Bottom river access point.

Historically, the Salmon River Trail continued on a route crossing the mouth of Somes Creek, then going up Monte Creek, over the mountain, down Duncan Creek, and up the Salmon River to Forks of Salmon. This travel route also used the Butler Mountain Trail. (See the separate description of the Butler Mountain Trail in this document.) It was the sole means of going up river before the construction of the Salmon River Rd. in the 1920s. The continuation to and past Somes Creek is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail, and has not been used or received maintenance in many decades. The section just past the end of the currently maintained trail, traversing the riverside cliff to Somes Creek, is heavily overgrown, and truly dangerous due to the precipice and extensive destruction by landslides. Concerning the section up Monte Creek and past, a Forest Service document from several decades ago said, "The trail has probably not been maintained since the 1930's." The distant southern end of that route, where it reached the Salmon River Rd. at Duncan Creek, has been destroyed by flooding. A second, probably more recent alignment of the trail continued high above the Salmon River past a point opposite Oak Bottom, and eventually joined the current route of the Salmon River Road just past where it crosses a bridge to the south bank. This route traversed steep, sliding bluffs, and has mostly slid away over the years, the destruction said to date back at least to the great 1964 flood. This area, too, is now in a truly dangerous condition, and no one should attempt to go there.

From the junction, the main Somes Mountain Trail continues to the right, up the peak. This is a steep, hard, and narrow trail to hike--miles long, with a 4700 foot elevation gain to the top of Somes Mountain. It is a dry hike. A hiker will not find any reliable water source after passing small tributaries in the canyon of the Salmon River before and just past the junction of the Salmon River Trail. About halfway up the first set of switchbacks, the trail reaches a crest of a sharp-sided ridge--a worthy destination in itself, with a view up Somes Creek to the summit of Somes Mountain. After completing the switchbacks, the trail turns south, traversing the mountainside high above Somes Creek, with expanding views of the canyon of the Salmon River and eventually high peaks of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. About 2.2 miles after departing the Salmon River Trail, the trail goes right past a tiny spring emerging from the roots of a large fir. This may dry up by midsummer or later, but still had a tiny flow in September 2024. Just after, watch out for the junction (recently very obscure) with a long dead end trail branching left to the Red Wing Mine (#5837). This is not a maintained Forest Service trail. However, if one can locate it, one can follow it about 3/4 mile to reach a large flat bench with a "grass lake" that sometimes receives and holds water from an intermittent spring on the west side, and thus may provide an attractive camping spot. A more reliable water source is a small creek 3/4 mile farther south on the Red Wing Mine Trail.

The main Somes Mountain Trail continues, initially climbing steeply up the slope to the west, then turning southwest to climb gently and steadily to a saddle. Some distance after the trail gains the top of the ridge, an old branching trail takes off to the right, descending through the drainages of Ikes and Whitmore Creeks to a group of homes on the north side of Peach Creek. Even if it remains discernible, this is not currently a Forest Service-maintained trail. This is despite the fact that some maps show it bearing an official number, #6E18, which would, however, be in conflict with the use of that number to designate Salmon River Trail. A Forest Service employee has confirmed that, at least, this branching trail actually exists.

The main trail continues south, staying on or close to the crest of the mountains, over and past the top of Somes Mountain. There are a couple of places up on the ridge where the view is spectacular, allowing a great view of Orleans. The routes as shown on all published maps are no better than rough approximations of the true location of the trail. Near the end, the trail passes a small waterfall high on Butler Creek. Eventually the trail intersects the "Butler Basin Jeep Trail," in the headwaters of Butler Creek. This also forms the top of the Orleans Mountain Trail coming up from Nordheimer Campground. A right turn uphill brings one, after a quarter mile, to Antenna Ridge Jeep Trail. A left turn here brings one to the summit of Orleans Mountain and the fire lookout in another 3/4 mile. Note that none of the published maps are accurate or helpful in deciphering the maze of old fire lines, skid trails, and faint old trails in the headwaters of Butler and Hammel Creeks.

For better or worse, the southern leg is a much shorter approach to the peak of Somes Mountain than coming from the north.

The Antenna Ridge Jeep Trail is a seriously difficult route to drive. Crews cleared it well while responding to the 2025 Butler Fire, but it is subject to frequent new falls of trees and limbs. It reaches grades of 18 to 20 degrees. (Not percent!) There are sections with a high center. It should be attempted only by experienced backcountry drivers, in a four wheel drive vehicle with high clearance. In any case, do not attempt it in rainy weather or when the surface is wet, as it could result in a muddy slide off the side of the tread. The Butler Basin Jeep Trail is extremely steep and

narrow, with a loose surface in places, and is frequently blocked by fallen trees that don't get cleared. We don't recommend trying it in anything but a full-on jeep with knobby tires. If you slid down the trail, you might not be able to make it back up.

All but the northern 1 3/4 miles and southern 1 1/2 miles of the Somes Mountain Trail burned over in the summer 2023 Peach Fire. Then much of that southern 1 1/2 miles burned over in the summer 2025 Butler Fire. These fires largely went through with a light touch, but there may have been areas of stand-clearing burning high on the ridge.

The first part of the Somes Mountain Trail, to the trail junction, and the continuation as the Salmon River Trail, received maintenance between 2017 and 2024, and are in decent condition. Some low duck-under logs remain; not suitable for stock for that reason.

The continuation of the Somes Mountain Trail, leading up to the peak and beyond, was largely cleared between 2019 and 2024 for about the first 2.2 miles only, to the area of the Red Wing Mine Tr. junction. Many down logs remained. They are mostly easy to get over or under, with a few low duck-unders, making this section passable with only moderate difficulty. In many places where the trail traverses above Somes Creek, the tread of the trail is soft and sloughing, causing the edges to collapse and the trail to creep, with poor footing.

The trail tread completely disappears in the area of the Red Wing Mine junction. If you've made it this far, you're still less than half way to the peak. The continuation of the main trail should go uphill to the west at this point. The initial climb is through an area with only light, largely burned up underbrush, so cross-country travel is straightforward. A route was flagged in September 2024. The tread can be picked up again after the trail turns southwest to angle toward the saddle on the main ridge, and walking becomes easy. The ridge is reached near the saddle marked with elevation 2567 on topographic maps, about 3.4 miles from the trailhead. The next 0.3 mile south along the top of the ridge is straightforward hiking, although the tread disappears in places, with areas of down timber. We have no report of conditions past there, as the trail again starts climbing steeply and approaches another set of switchbacks.

It could in recent years be observed from aerial photographs that farther up the ridge, and starting at about 5.6 miles from the trailhead, there were several sections that burned in recent years, and that had become choked with heavy brush and jackstrawed fallen trees. These areas might have been rendered entirely impassable. Some of these obstacles may have burned off in the 2023 Peach Fire. At best, the route from here is likely very obscure in places. The uppermost part of the trail approaching the peak was reported to be very obscure as far back as 2001, although following the top of the ridge should be straightforward at that point. All of the higher parts of the trail north and south of the peak are very primitive, apparently no actual tread construction ever having been done.

The southern part of the trail, branching off the aforementioned Butler Basin Jeep Trail and running north to the peak of Somes Mountain, has had no maintenance in several decades. The southern start of the trail can be discerned with close attention. An old logging skid trail branches north just about at the lowest elevation point along that jeep trail. However, the proper start of Somes Mountain Trail is perhaps 100 feet to the west. The trail tread, clearly visible at first, disappears after a while into an area of small burned and fallen trees, that may have further burned off in the 2025 Butler Fire,

then comes and goes. Angling to the right will bring one again to the skid trail, a bit north of the saddle that is northeast of Peak 5865 as shown on topo maps. The trail route then follows the skid trail for about 3/4 mile. There are short patches of very heavy brush, but again, some of that may have burned off in the 2025 Butler Fire. The skid trail makes a sharp left turn, climbs steeply, and reaches a brush-choked saddle on the main ridgeline. From here, do not follow the overgrown and absurdly steep skid trail. Instead, follow the very primitive trail on the top of the ridge, very brushy but passable. This then rejoins the skid trail for a while. The route descends steeply through open forest to another saddle. From there, it's again very brushy most of the way. The route sticks to the top of the ridge, except for traversing slopes to the right to go around a number of rocky prominences. It takes some less than obvious turns, with tread being extremely faint or nonexistent. It's often necessary to deviate from the route of the skid trail, to go around heavily overgrown pieces. The skid trail finally ends some distance short of last of these prominences, Peak 5105 as shown on topographic maps. The trail has become extremely obscure where it contours around the east side. We have no recent report of the condition of the final ridgetop climb to the summit of Somes Mountain, but it appears that it will be more of the same. This entire route is exhausting to hike, due to unstable rocky tread and the constant necessity for one footed balancing maneuvers going through brushy patches. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length, Somes Mountain Tr.: 10.2 miles

Approximate length, Salmon River Tr., maintained section: 0.4 mile

Stanshaw Meadows Trail (#7E10 or 5819)

For equestrians, this is the most popular western access to the high country of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. At the trailhead, there is a developed campground and there are several well maintained corrals. The Stanshaw Meadows Trail traverses fir, pine, and mountain hemlock forests, passing many small meadows, rising and falling along its entire length. It is an alternative to the first part of the Haypress Trail—a longer route, involving more climbing, but maintained to standards more suitable for stock. Note that USGS maps show the topography incorrectly near the start of the trail. The trail does not in fact cross Sandy Bar Creek. Stanshaw Meadows drain into the creek that runs just north of the trailhead camp, not into the main branch of Sandy Bar Creek as shown on maps. Also, topographic maps do not show the current alignment of the start of the trail, or the location of the trailhead camp. The trail intersects the Ten Bear Trail after about 1.7 miles. Close to its end, it reaches the lower intersection with the McCash Loop. After one final short climb, it drops to Haypress Creek and the terminus at the Haypress Trail.

Early season visitors attempting to reach Stanshaw Trailhead are advised to approach from Camp Three Road. A persistent snow patch often blocks the last part of the alternative approach from Ti Bar Road.

The trail was well maintained as of early summer 2021, before the McCash Fire. It has received basic logouts since then. Packers didn't cut every log; they left some in place where easy bypasses were available. As of June 2025, there are some debris down, but the trail is easily hikeable. It doesn't appear that any equestrians have yet visited. There are some holes in the tread where roots burned out in the fire. The lower extension of the trail, which descended from the road south of

where it crosses Sandy Bar Creek, across from an older, no longer used alignment of the upper trail, is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail, and has not received maintenance in many decades. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 3.6 miles

Steinacher Trail (#12W20 or 5413)

This short access to a cool, pretty glade along Steinacher Creek starts at the end of the stub of the Steinacher Creek Rd. There is no sign--vandals cut it down. The trail initially follows the route of the fully decommissioned road.

This is a great place to view the ongoing recovery of the forest following a full decommissioning project that aimed to restore the natural contours of the land. This road was built in 1968 with the idea of doing extensive logging in the Steinacher Creek watershed, but not a single tree was ever cut in a timber sale. The decommissioning project was completed in the 1990s, with the upper half accomplished by the Karuk Tribe under contract with the U.S. Forest Service. This returned nearly the entire Wooley Creek watershed to a wild state.

After leaving the old road bed, the trail descends into the ravine of the creek. Beware of poison oak along the last part of the trail.

Annual maintenance done 2025. As of August 2025, there are two locations with large down logs--passable for hikers with some easy clambering. This trail is not stock passable, due to a rockfall near the start. The old continuation past Steinacher Creek, known as the Steinacher Ridge Trail (#5833), making a prodigious climb for many miles into the high country, is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail. It received no maintenance for many decades. However, in summer 2024, some unknown length of the trail was reopened by crews responding to a small fire up the ridge. This may be the best opportunity in many years for anyone wishing to explore up the trail. (Updated August 2025.)

Approximate length: 0.7 mile

Tar Water Trail (#5810)

Short trail providing access to the Klamath River and a placer mining claim. The trail begins where Highway 96 goes through a large through cut. The old highway route went around the shoulder to the west of the current through cut. The trail begins at the southern junction of the current and old highways, with vehicles blocked from using the old highway. The initial part of the trail, following a short piece of the old highway, is currently thoroughly choked with blackberries. (Updated June 2024.)

Approximate length: 0.6 mile

Ten Bear Trail (#6E14 or 5802)

This trail is a quiet alternative to the first part of the Stanshaw Meadows Trail. It is a primitive trail, with some steep sections, but when well maintained presents no real difficulties for hikers or stock. The trail goes through forested country, passing several small, lovely meadows. The crossing of Ross Meadow can be confusing. In either direction, start crossing at the large rock cairn at the edge of the meadow, pass between the two cairns in the middle, and aim for the large cairn at the opposite edge.

Was well maintained early summer 2021, but then the 2021 McCash Fire caused some damage. As of June 2025, there are some logs down. Hikers can clamber over them or readily bypass them. The trail is probably passable for equestrians, but some of the bypasses will be difficult. The brush isn't bad. The pieces of the old extension of the Ten Bear Trail, continuing north from the current trailhead at the end of the spur road, seem to be completely gone, having received no maintenance and having been mostly destroyed by being built over with roads, logging operations, fire lines, and so forth. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 2.7 miles

Ti Creek Trail (#6E19)

This is no longer a Forest Service-maintained trail. It has not received maintenance in many decades, and is well grown over. Nevertheless, there is still a sign in a tree about 30 feet above the Ten Bear Trail, marking the old junction. From there, the trail went over the ridge, descended to Road 15N17, just outside the wilderness boundary. At one time it went all the way to the Klamath River, before road construction and logging obscured it. Some maps show an additional trail section (which even had an official number, #7E19) going east from the Ten Bear Trail to the McCash Loop near Long Meadow, but the location is uncertain.

Approximate length (from Road 15N17 to Ten Bear Tr.): 0.8 mile

Torgerson Meadow Trail (#5827)

This faint trail provides a route that is an alternative to Haypress Trail's climb up the western slope of Sandy Ridge.

As the tread is often very faint, note the following advice carefully. Use of a GPS device may be advisable. The trail was heavily affected by the 2017 Haypress Fire and 2021 McCash Fire. Logged out summer 2020, making it stock passable. As of June 2025, the lower junction with Haypress Trail has been well cleared out. Note that the junction is about 30 feet *before* the trail sign in a tree. The route then immediately becomes very brushy. It trail starts out following the northwest bank of Halfmoon Creek through green forest, before climbing to a saddle where it enters a large area of burned-over forest. The trail continues to the south bank of the creek draining Torgerson Meadow, follows that south bank for some distance, skirting small, pretty meadows, crosses the creek, and skirts Torgerson Meadow proper on the left side. The increasingly indiscernible trail climbs through an intensely-burned area with little living plant growth, to reach the McCash Loop at the crest of the main ridge. The only remains of the sign that once marked this junction are one bolt in a fallen, charred tree. (Updated June 2025.)

Approximate length: 1.5 miles

Tripp Point Trail (#5845)

Short river access trail.

Approximate length: 0.3 mile

Ukonom Creek Trail (## 6E13 & 7E21)

The trail starts across the Klamath River from the Coon Creek river access point. For users arriving via Highway 96, it is necessary to somehow get across the river. This may be possible in late summer, when the water level is especially low. At any other time, crossing is likely to be a very hazardous proposition without a substantial boat. Great caution and advance inquiry as to river conditions is advised. The great majority of users of this trail are participants in raft trips or kayakers, who pull over to the bar opposite and somewhat upriver of the Coon Creek river access point.

The first mile of the trail leads to Ukonom Creek Twin Falls, a popular destination for Klamath River boaters. This part of the trail receives pretty heavy use, and is kept open by rafting companies. The readily usable part of the trail continues for perhaps another quarter mile past the falls. Note that instead of using the trail, many boaters scramble, wade, and swim directly up Ukonom Creek to reach the falls. Some of the hike descriptions you might see are of the route up the creek bed. Beyond Ukonom Creek Twin Falls, the trail, and its branches, are no longer maintained by the Forest Service, and have not received maintenance in many decades. An alternate trail route into the canyon of Ukonom Creek (trail #5854) starts at a logging road high on Ukonom Mountain, and makes a long drop to intersect the main trail. Higher up the canyon, the trail supposedly splits again. The route sometimes known as the Ukonom Ridge Trail ascends north of the creek canyon, climbing thousands of vertical feet, intersects the old Jacobs Ladder Trail, and goes to Ukonom Lake. Another branch supposedly continued up the creek, and then past the confluence of the McCash Fork ascended to Secret Lake, but efforts to locate the route at the Secret Lake end reveal nothing.

The Klamath National Forest's 1976 King Unit Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement said, "Access to the Ukonom Creek Trail is very difficult because of the necessity to cross the Klamath River by boat, ford it, or walk down steep slopes into the creek from roads on the ridge tops several thousand feet above." The 1993 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Klamath National Forest Plan said, "The Ukonom Creek Trail receives little use and has deteriorated to the point where it is unusable beyond the first 3 miles, although the trail prism is in excellent shape." The situation has not improved in the years since.

Approximate length (river to Ukonom Lake): 10.5 miles

Wooley Creek Trail (#12W15, or ##5832 & 5558)

This trail provides access to the heart of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. Wooley Creek has been designated a Wild and Scenic River. This is a predominantly shady, undulating walk through impressive stands of old growth Douglas fir, pine, and hardwoods. However, the first part climbs steeply for several hundred vertical feet across a rocky talus slope exposed to the midday sun. After this initial climb, the trail roller-coasters along, sometimes close to the creek, at other times climbing high above bluffs, or hanging precipitously to the cliff's edge. Water sources are frequent, as numerous small streams flow down to join Wooley Creek.

The first access to Wooley Creek is possible about 2.6 miles from the trailhead, before the crossing of Deer Lick Creek. Don't follow elk paths, as they don't hesitate to jump off small cliffs! A safer route to the edge of Wooley Creek is to follow Deer Lick Creek down from the trail crossing, 0.2 mile farther along. The crossing of Deer Lick Creek may be hazardous during early season periods of high water. The trail climbs steeply, and again runs high above the creek for a few miles. As the trail again descends, a side trail leads downhill to the right, to and through Wooley Camp, a private inholding. Please respect the owners' property rights. The public trail continues to the left, traversing higher across the mountainside, rejoined by the private trail a short distance before Haypress Creek.

Past Bridge Creek, just short of Fowler Cabin, the trail splits. This junction is obscure, and there is no sign. The left branch bypasses the cabin, skirting above the meadow, while the right branch goes directly past the cabin. The two branches rejoin a short way east of the cabin. Follow the left branch to find the signed junction of the Bridge Creek Trail, accessing Medicine Mountain, Pleasant Lake, and eventually the Haypress Trail near Onemile and Cuddihy Lakes. Fowler Cabin is a historic structure, an interesting reminder of days gone by in a lovely small meadow. Administrative use of the cabin has priority, but it is open to the public.

Beyond Fowler Cabin, the trail often follows closer to Wooley Creek, with frequent views of and access to the water. About half way from Canyon Creek to Dead Horse Creek, the trail climbs high above Wooley Creek for a while, and crosses a small stream that flows over a slippery rock outcrop. There are scenic views of the creek's deep gorge below. Just past this point, look for short downhill spur going back to the base of a small waterfall on the side stream.

The final approach to the North Fork can be confusing. As one gets close to the North Fork's gorge, there is a split (wye) in the trail. The right branch leads alternatively to overgrown North Fork Camp, or to a piece of well-built trail with a substantial rock wall, that ends abruptly at a cliff. Apparently this was the pre-1964 route of the trail. The current trail follows the left branch at the split. This climbs above the bank of the North Fork for some distance, crosses a bog, then makes an immediate sharp, possibly obscure right turn, then turns left again and descends to the creek. The crossing passes through a waist-deep pool. It looks like you should angle left across the creek, but don't--instead, angle right. For hikers, the crossing is not quite as deep if you start about 20 feet downstream from where the trail hits the creek, but the current is swifter there, so it may not be as safe a choice early season. Wading will be required at any time of year. The crossing of the North Fork is likely to be difficult and hazardous at times of high water, which may persist well into June, or in some years even beyond. Some hikers have found an easier crossing by going higher into the gorge of the creek, but travel along the banks is difficult.

Several miles past is a junction with the Big Meadows Trail, which leads to Wild Lake and the North Fork of the Salmon River. Wooley Creek Trail continues following the north bank of the creek to Anthony Milne Camp, reached via a short spur. At that point, Wooley Creek Trail begins a long, stiff, precipitous climb, eventually leading one to the vicinity of Big Elk Lake and the Marble Rim.

This trail is known as much for its abundant poison oak, rattlesnakes, and ticks as for its access to great swimming and kayaking, so please use caution. The weather at the low elevations that the trail traverses, especially the exposed initial climb, can be very hot in summer. Choose times of day and of the year for your travels with this in mind. On the other hand, the low elevation makes Wooley Creek Trail one of the few long distance trails in the district suitable for year round use, and it can be a very pleasant trip even in the middle of winter. Wildflower displays at lower elevations can be very good early in the season, especially in May. Please note that during periods of thaw, the crossings of Deer Lick Creek and some of the larger streams farther along the trail (especially the North Fork, as noted above) may become difficult and hazardous. (There are bridges that cross Haypress and Bridge Creeks, the largest of the side streams within the Ukonom Ranger District.) Also, trees falling in winter may create substantial obstacles. Users should not anticipate any work by trail crews until May at the earliest.

For a great video segment about a hike to Fowler Cabin, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iQ0CDQJ0tU> .

From the trailhead to Fowler Cabin, logged out, basic tread repairs performed, and a little spot brushing done April 2025 by the Bigfoot Trail Alliance, Ascend Wilderness Experience, and the Siskiyou Mountain Club. However, some obstacles remained. The trail section bypassing Wooley Camp was not fully cleared. Notably, a short distance past the first spur to Wooley Camp, a large rootwad fell away from the trail, leaving a cavity that is difficult for stock to negotiate. A little past there, a large fir trunk fell across the trail. Hikers could easily duck under it, but it was a substantial obstacle for stock. About one mile short of Bridge Creek, another large rootwad, that would require rigging to remove, fell into the trail, making it impassable for stock, although passable for hikers. Late season 2025, firefighters reportedly did work on lower Wooley Creek Trail in connection with the response to the "Log Fire" that burned very high on the mountains south of Wooley Creek. They may have cleared the above-mentioned obstacles, but we have no detailed report.

Past Fowler Cabin, a September 2025 report from a hiker said that the trail was in at least moderate condition. In working the trail up to Fowler Cabin, the BFTA and SMC observed that a late season low elevation snow storm during the 2024-25 winter had brought down a moderately high number of trees, especially madrones and tanoaks. This situation may well persist along the remaining part of the trail that traverses low elevation mixed evergreen forest, so expect hikers should expect some deadfalls and it's questionable if the trail is stock passable. From Fowler Cabin to the crossing of the North Fork Wooley Creek, logged out and full maintenance performed by the Bigfoot Trail Alliance between summer and October 2024. The entire Ukonom Ranger District section of the trail was placed in generally good condition, as of that time. Short brushy patches remain before Bridge Creek, especially along the bypass of Wooley Camp.

The maintenance responsibility of the Ukonom Ranger District ends at the North Fork, and the route number becomes 5558. For further information on current conditions past this point, users are strongly advised to contact the Salmon-Scott Rivers Ranger District at (530) 468-5351.

Logged out and full maintenance performed for 1 ½ miles past the North Fork by the Bigfoot Trail Alliance, October 2024. The work made the trail stock passable to this point, but that may no longer be the case. From here to a point one-half mile above Anthony Milne Camp, the trail is definitely not stock passable, due to numerous fallen trees and other obstacles. A short distance past where the 2024 work stopped, one must cross a pair of large firs lying at a steep angle across the trail, on a steep side slope, apparently not yet cut through as part of the 2024 work or the 2025 work by fire crews. Crossing these may be hazardous. We advise carrying a saw to cut small steps in these logs. The rest of the section to the junction with Big Meadows Trail hasn't been logged out since 2015 or earlier. Nevertheless, we have reports, as recently as the September 2025 hiker's report, that the trail is passable, and in moderate condition, all the way to Anthony Milne Camp. However, one should expect many down trees all along the way, despite some of the down timber having burned up in the 2021 McCash Fire. The point at which the trail makes a left uphill switchback turn at the junction with Big Meadows Trail may be obscure. Use of a GPS device is suggested.

From Anthony Milne Camp, for about 3/4 mile only, the trail is in very bad condition, and difficult--it's brushy, it has a number of formidable logs and root wads down, it has many more down trees, and it makes a steep climb on unstable surfaces. The September 2025 hiker's report said, "There's horrendous blowdown of epic proportions--like a tornado hit the area--and it's even somewhat hazardous."

Summer 2024, the Siskiyou Mountain Club and the Bigfoot Trail Alliance performed full maintenance starting after that 3/4 mile, and continuing to the junction with Haypress Trail. However, the September 2025 hiker's report indicated that there had already been substantial regrowth of brush between Ananias Camp and the end, though overall the trail was in moderate condition. Much of the headwaters of the Big Elk Fork, traversed by the top end of the trail, was previously heavily forested. Nearly all this forest was killed when the 2014 Happy Camp Fire came through with stand-clearing intensity. Despite repeated clearings, brush has been regrowing in this area with incredible speed.

Unfortunately, the CCC crew work that was scheduled for summer 2025 did not happen.

If you attempt to use the not-yet-maintained part of the trail, please use good judgment and be prepared to turn back if need be. Again, carrying a good hand saw would be prudent.

The effort is made to maintain the Wooley Creek Trail at least as far as Fowler Cabin for pack and saddle stock as well as for hikers. In addition to the comments above concerning the most recent trail condition information, note the following. Parts of the trail present *significant falling hazards* for stock, due to a number of locations with narrow tread traversing above steep, long dropoffs. Potentially hazardous spots start even before Deer Lick Creek. Only experienced riders and animals, prepared to accept these risks, should make the journey. *Please note that the crossing of Canyon Creek has deteriorated from its original design, and has a slippery spot with exposed bedrock where the trail rises from the far side of the creek. Pack trains have made it through, but stock users should dismount and inspect the crossing on foot. Use discretion.* Also, as with many trails in these mountains, there is an always-present possibility of trees falling at any time of year, after the most recent maintenance, and they could become stock stoppers.

The alternate upper exit from Wooley Creek is Big Meadows Trail. The Salmon-Scott Rivers District logged out and worked Big Meadows Trail in summer 2020. We believe that it has deteriorated since. (Updated October 2025.)

Approximate length: 25.3 miles (including the portion past the ranger district boundary)