

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

MT HOOD INFORMATION CENTER 65000 E Hwy 26 Welches OR 622-7674/622-3360

Length: 11.7 km (7.8 mi.)



Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER

Use: Heavy

Difficulty: Most Difficult

BURNT LAKE TRAIL #772

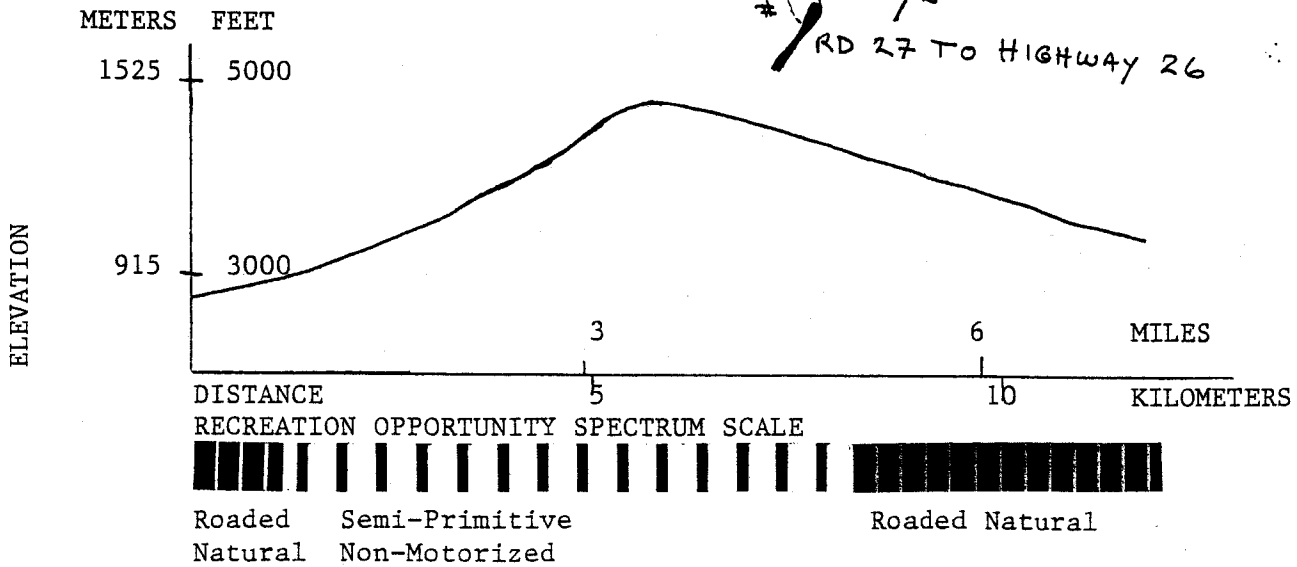
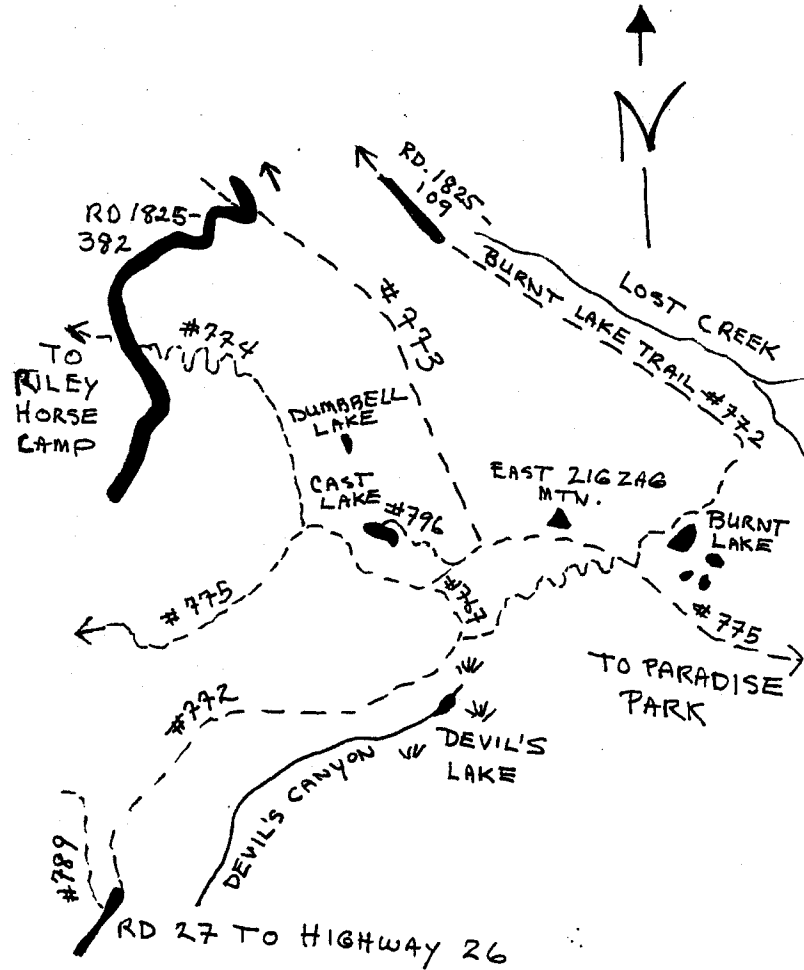
TRAIL BEGINS: 940 meters (3160 feet) elevation; at the end of Road 1825-109 on the SW edge of an old harvest unit.

TRAIL ENDS: 781 meters (2560 feet) elevation; at the end of Road 1825-109 on the SW edge of an old harvest unit.

ACCESS #1: Follow US 26 1.4 miles east of Rhododendron to Road 2627 located on the north side of the highway. Follow Road 2627-207, a rough and narrow road not suitable for trailers, to its end in 4.3 miles.

ACCESS #2: Follow US 26 18 mi. east of Sandy to the community of Zigzag, turn north (left) at the Zigzag store onto Lolo Pass Road (18). Continue 4 miles, bear right, on Rd. 1825 cross bridge and then continue 1.7 miles to a junction. Bear right on 1825 following it .3 miles until the pavement ends. Keep left and continue .04 mile, where you bear right on 1825-109. Follow the road another .09 mile to its end at the edge of a large harvest unit.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The Burnt Lake Trail provides the main access to Zigzag Mountain in the Mt. Hood Wilderness. WILDERNESS PERMITS ARE REQUIRED. THEY ARE SELF-ISSUING AT TRAILHEADS OR AT THE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY.



NARRATIVE: BURNT LAKE TRAIL #772

Although the distance is relatively short, traveling on Burnt Lake Trail can be a rugged proposition. The rough access, longer and less steep, is reached by traveling up the rough and narrow gravel Road 27 (2627-207) which early in the season or after heavy rains has a few mud holes that could cause problems. The last mile a high clearance vehicle is needed. Limited parking is available at this trailhead. It follows an abandoned road to Devil's Meadow which is reached in 1.8 miles. The meadow, picturesque throughout the season, boasts a view of Mt. Hood as well as a wide variety of wildflowers. There is ample opportunity for camping under the many groves of trees in this area. Remember, camping is allowed most anywhere in the wilderness. Camping is discouraged in the fragile meadow and shoreline areas. As always, be well prepared for mosquitoes, especially when traveling through or near wet areas.

Late in the summer, huckleberries can be found along the portion of the trail from Devil's Meadow to East Zigzag. This section of trail generally climbs through open areas bordered with beargrass and rhododendrons. East Zigzag Mountain, near the mid point of the Burnt Lake Trail, is a rocky knob covered with delicate and fragile wildflowers. Excellent views of the Cascades from Mt. Rainier to Three Fingered Jack can be seen from the top, which was once the site of a forest fire lookout.

From East Zigzag, the Burnt Lake Trail descends rapidly through some ledgy areas to Burnt Lake. This is an extremely fragile and popular camping destination, with limited opportunity for locating minimal impact campsites. Campsites should be at least 100 feet from lake and stream shorelines and away from grassy meadow areas. If you want to camp in the vicinity of Burnt Lake and are seeking a quiet experience, arrive early in the day; then scout out a flat spot tucked in the trees. Spreading out the campsites, utilizing "NO-TRACE" camping techniques, and using the lakeshore itself for day use activities, such as fishing and swimming, will allow more people to enjoy this fragile environment while creating less impact.

The lake itself is located in a deep basin in which noise echoes and travels to such a degree that a barking dog can impact everyone's experience. A loop trail around the lakeshore is spattered with colorful wildflowers.

From the lake, the trail steeply descends a rugged slope until it enters an area of severe blowdown. This blowdown occurred over a period of 3 years. Use extreme caution because of the potential fire hazard. After descending this steep slope, the trail travels through the forest at a very gradual grade to the wilderness trailhead on Road 1825-109. Two day hike loops featuring a variety of wildflowers and views can be made from the Road 27 (2627-207) trailhead.

Forest regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on the entire trail and horses on the section from Road 1825-109 to East Zigzag to minimize resource damage and to provide a safer trail. Wilderness regulations also prohibit the use of bicycles on this trail. WILDERNESS PERMITS ARE REQUIRED. They are self-issuing at the trailheads or at the wilderness boundary.

WATER STATEMENT: WATER IS GENERALLY AVAILABLE IN MANY LOCATIONS ALONG THE ENTIRE BURNT LAKE TRAIL. UNFORTUNATELY OPEN WATER SOURCES ARE EASILY CONTAMINATED BY HUMAN OR ANIMAL WASTES. WATER FROM SPRINGS, LAKES, PONDS AND STREAMS SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR DRINKING WITHOUT PROPER TREATMENT. A RECOMMENDED METHOD OF TREATMENT IS TO BRING CLEAR WATER TO A ROLLING BOIL FOR 5 MINUTES.