



# Recreation Opportunity Guide

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

MT HOOD INFORMATION CENTER 65000 E Hwy 26 Welches OR

Length: 10.4 KM (6.5 MI.)

## DOUGLAS TRAIL #781

622-7674/622-3360



### Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate

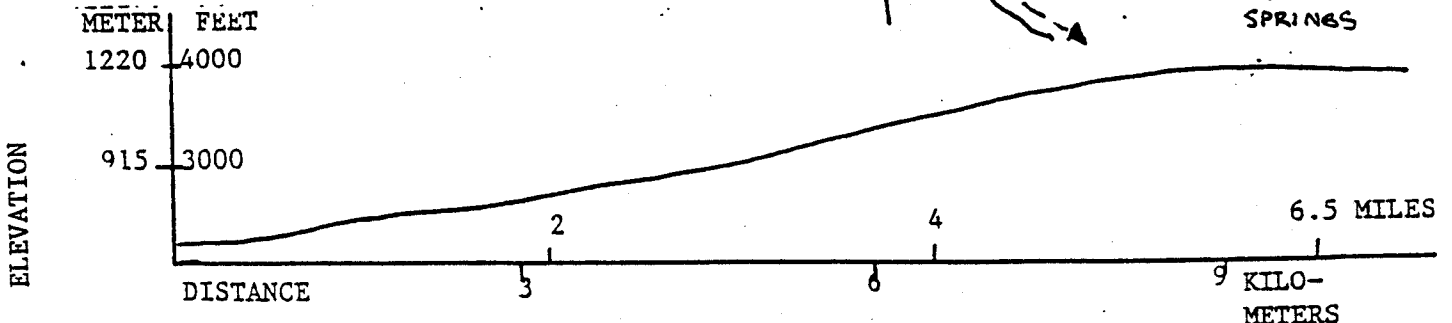
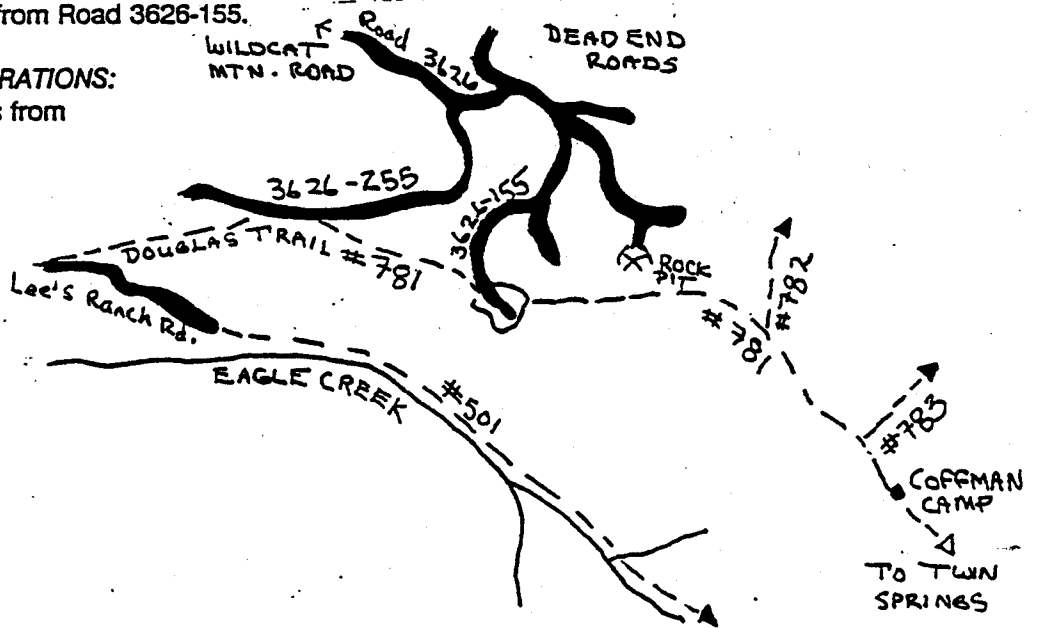
**TRAIL BEGINS:** 634 meters (2080 feet) elevation  
 On the south side of Road 3626-255  
 .9 mile from its junction with Road 3626.  
 Two trailheads exist on the same side of the road, .4 mile apart. On Lee's Ranch Road, approximately 1 mile from the Eagle Creek trailhead. However, this road is impassable by vehicle. Foot or equestrian access is viable, or follow directions to Douglas Trail's intersection with Road 3626-255 under "access" below.

**TRAIL ENDS:** 1220 meters (4000 feet) elevation  
 at its junction with Plaza Trail #783.

**ACCESS:** Follow US Highway 26 approximately 2 miles east of Sandy, turning right at Firwood Road (Shorty's Corner). Follow firwood Road 3.4 miles (Firwood Road bears to the right at a four-way intersection after .8 mile) to Wildcat Mtn. Road. Turn left on Wildcat Mtn. Road for 5.6 miles, (becomes Road 3626) turning right on Road 3626-255. Follow this paved, one-lane logging road for .9 mile to the upper trailhead (leading to McIntyre Ridge Trail #782 and Plaza Trail #783). Shoulder parking is on the left; continue on the road .4 mile further for the portion of the Douglas Trail leading to Eagle Creek. Trail could also be accessed from Road 3626-155.

### ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Douglas Trail provides access from Sandy to the Huckleberry Mtn. area. It accesses both the McIntyre Ridge and Plaza Trails. Ridgtop views and wildflowers, including prolific rhododendron and beargrass displays, are characteristic of this trail. This trail is in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness.



### RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM SCALE



ROADED NATURAL

SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED

#### **NARRATIVE: DOUGLAS TRAIL #781**

Douglas Trail, located in an area of active timber management, is intersected by Road 3626-255. The trail follows the road for .4 mile resulting in two trailheads. The first or eastern trailhead leads up into the Huckleberry Mountain area, including McIntyre Ridge Trail #782, Plaza Trail #783, Bonanza Trail #786, and Boulder Ridge Trail #783A.

The western trailhead leads across to Eagle Creek, offering a great connection, especially for equestrians. This portion leads through a BLM logging unit. To connect to the Eagle Creek Trail, follow the logging road approximately .2 mile, turn left onto Lee's Ranch Road approximately 1 mile to Eagle Creek trailhead. Starting at the western trailhead, the trail junctions in less than .1 mile and connects with an old trail that goes up to Eagle Creek Butte. Retracing steps, the Douglas Trail continues through the forest for 1.4 miles until it reaches the rough access road ("Lee's Ranch Road") to the Eagle Creek Trail. By following this road downhill for approximately 1 mile, the Eagle Creek Trail will be reached.

From the eastern trailhead, the trail climbs in the forest one-half mile until a plantation is reached. This harvested unit and others that cross Douglas Trail are indications of intensive forest management in this area. Over the next few years, portions of the Douglas Trail may be impassable or inaccessible while logging is on-going. It is best to check with the Mt. Hood Information Center for current information. When passing through the plantations, keep an eye open for wildlife.

A year-round stream, the only water source on this trail, is located 1 mile from the trailhead.

The trail climbs until an active rock quarry is reached at 1.9 miles. Use caution crossing this area. There is a confusing spot at the quarry where a spur trail takes off to the left. (This spur leads in a short distance to the site of the former "Douglas Camp" and a water source.) You need to head right to connect with the rest of the trail. The other end of the trail is located directly across the quarry. A unique view of the area south across Eagle Creek to old Baldy is found .1 mile further. The trail, now on the ridgetop, alternates between uphill and downhill.

The junction of McIntyre Ridge Trail is found at 3.1 miles. Douglas Trail climbs via some short, rutted switchbacks for .2 mile to a short way-trail to the right. A brief hike up the short way-trail leads to the rhododendron covered top of Wildcat Mountain, a former lookout site. Phenomenal views of Mt. Ranier, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson abound. Several views are found on the last 1.2 miles of the trail.

Utilizing two cars, portions of the Douglas Trail can be combined with other trails in this area to provide a most interesting route.

This trail is shared by hikers and equestrians and is part of the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness. Wilderness rules prohibit the use of motorized vehicles and bicycles on this trail. Wilderness permits are required and are self-issuing at trailheads or at the wilderness boundary.

#### **WATER STATEMENT:**

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.