

# ELK COVE TRAIL # 631



Northwest Forest Pass	→	Not required
Distance	→	5.2 miles one-way
Elevation	→	High 5,500 feet - Low 3,600 feet
Snow Free	→	Mid July - October
Difficulty	→	Moderate/Strenuous

**Directions to Trailhead:** Drive south from Hood River on Highway 35 for approximately 14 miles to the community of Mt. Hood. Turn right at the general store onto Cooper Spur Road and continue for another mile. At the traffic light, turn right into Parkdale. Turn left onto Clear Creek Road (across from McIsaac's store), and drive south for about 5 miles to FS-Road 2840 – Laurence Lake Road. After passing Kinnickinnick Campground at Laurence Lake, continue to the left on Road 2840. Drive about a mile further to the 650 Road junction where you will find the trailhead parking area. The trail includes a 1-mile section of the abandoned Road 650.

**Trail Highlights:** The trail leads to one of the most popular meadowed basins on Mt. Hood. Hikers are well rewarded with close, open views of Mt. Hood and beautiful displays of wildflowers mid July-August. A view of Mt. Hood from Inspiration Point (about 2 miles from the trailhead) makes a nice hike for those wanting a closer destination.

**Trail Description:** The trail climbs a gentle slope to a wilderness entry sign and then switchbacks up to the crest of the ridge. After another mile, a rock outcrop is to the left of the trail. This overlook (Inspiration Point) provides a fine view into Coe Branch Canyon and of Mt. Hood. This trail continues climbing sometimes steeply, until just before reaching a shallow stream. Typically in mid-July the ground beneath the large conifers is white with a carpet of Avalanche Lilies. After crossing the stream, the trail makes several short, gentle switchbacks up a broad ravine to reach a junction with the Timberline Trail #600 on the edge of Elk Cove. The remains of a stone shelter are located a few hundred yards to the southeast. The broken and bleached snags that make Elk Cove such a photographic delight attest to the power and frequency of avalanches thundering down from Barrett Spur. To reach the summit of Barrett Spur, take the Timberline Trail west. After rounding the ridge, the trail traverses above a talus slope and the ground above the trail becomes less steep. An unmarked trail follows a shallow depression to Dollar Lake. From the lake, climb the ridge to the summit at 7,853'. Depending on the time of year, the ridge can be rocky, snowy, icy, or a combination of all three. Use extreme caution and stay away from the edge of steep snow banks. This trail climbs almost 2,500' in elevation above Elk Cove.

MAP ON REVERSE

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

### MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

Hood River Ranger District

6780 Highway 35 – Parkdale, OR 97041

541-352-6002

[www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood)



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