



Clackamas River Ranger District

Estacada Ranger Station
595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023
(503) 630-6861 or 630-8700

Ripplebrook Guard Station
61431 E Hwy 224
Estacada, OR 97023

ELK LAKE CREEK TRAIL # 559

Recommended Season: June to November

Length: 8.9 miles Use: Medium
Elevation: 2400' to 3700' Difficulty: More difficult
USGS Map: Battle Ax NE 1979



Description: (in Bull of the Woods Wilderness area, closed to mountain bikes and motorized vehicles).

Elk Lake Creek Trail # 559 is the major north-south trail that traverses the east side of Bull of the Woods Wilderness area. It follows the forested Elk Lake Creek valley for its entire length. The trail passes through areas of very large Douglas and True Fir old growth. Elk Lake Creek is a beautiful low elevation stream for fishing.

Trail Access:

The southern trailhead: Travel 5 miles east of Detroit, Oregon on Forest Road 46 and turn left onto Forest road 4696. After approximately 3/4 of a mile turn left onto 4697. (4697 is 5-6 miles of very rough road and is down to bedrock, only attempt this access using a vehicle with plenty of ground clearance). Road 4697 curves into a westerly heading and passes near the northeast side of Elk Lake, where you will find the trailhead.

The northern trailhead: Travel south on Hwy. 224 for 25.6 miles, (approximately 1/2 mile past Ripplebrook Ranger Station), and turn right onto Forest Road 46. On road 46 travel 3 1/2 miles and turn right onto road 63. On road 63 travel 13 miles to the point where the pavement ends and bear right on road 6380 for a little over 2 miles to where it crosses a bridge over the Collawash River. Cross the Bridge and turn left going up the opposite hill 3/4 of a mile to the trailhead in a reforested clearcut area.

Trail Mileage Log:

- 0.0 Follow Road 6380 through an old clearcut and through low new growth.
- 0.6 Rock slide area close to Elk Lake Creek overlooking waterfall.
- 1.4 Continuing through deep old growth trees, pretty waterfall area.
- 1.6 Unmarked trail branches off east to Janus Butte.
- 2.0 Cross two streams, Knob Rock Creek and Welcome Lake Creek.
- 2.2 Junction on right with Welcome Lakes Trail # 554.
- 2.8 Following rocky, scenic gorge. Cliffs opposite.
- 3.1 Low bluff above river, narrows, deep pool.
- 4.0 Cross side stream in area of dead trees and blowdown.
- 4.3 Top of sharp rise over eroded bank.
- 4.9 Battle Creek Shelter and junction with Mother Lode Trail # 558. Beyond the shelter, trail begins climb above Elk Lake Creek via a series of switchbacks and climbing turns.
- 6.3 Cross a small stream flowing to the east. Enter deeper forest.
- 8.7 Grove of giant trees.
- 8.9 End of trail on Elk Lake Road 4697 near the northeast end of Elk lake.



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Forest Service
Pacific Northwest
Region

Mt. Hood
National
Forest

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