

ELK MEADOWS LOOP TRAIL #645/652A/600/646



Northwest Forest Pass	→	Required
Distance	→	7.8 miles round trip
Elevation	→	High 5,900 feet - Low 4,500 feet
Snow Free	→	June - October
Difficulty	→	Moderate/Strenuous

Directions to Trailhead: Travel south from Hood River on Highway 35 approximately 33 miles. Turn right at the Hood River Meadows Nordic Ski Area sign and drive to the trailhead parking lot on the right.

Trail Highlights: A magnificent view of Mt. Hood makes this an ideal loop trip for either a day hike or an overnight trip. An abundance of wildflowers can be enjoyed in the meadow area July through August. Several connecting trails can be taken to extend the trip.

Trail Description: Follow the Elk Meadows Trail #645 north, passing a wilderness entry sign and crossing the footbridge leading over Clark Creek. At the one-mile point, the trail comes to a junction with the Newton Creek Trail #646. Continue straight ahead and watch your step crossing Newton Creek on logs and rocks. Climb a series of switchbacks to a saddle in the ridge and a four-way trail junction. To the left (west), the Gnarl Ridge Trail #652 climbs to the Timberline Trail #600. To the right (east), the Bluegrass Ridge Trail climbs to Elk Mountain (nice views of Mt. Hood and Hood River Valley). Continue straight to a junction with Elk Meadows Perimeter Trail #645A. Follow the Elk Meadows Trail to the right, passing a junction with the Bluegrass Ridge Tie Trail. At the north end of the meadow, another junction is reached. Follow the Gnarl Ridge Tie Trail # 652A and Gnarl Ridge Trail # 652 to a junction with the Timberline Trail #600. Turn left (south) on the Timberline Trail to Newton Creek. **Caution:** *Newton Creek is not bridged – crossing may be difficult at times depending on flow conditions and the ability of your group.* A short distance beyond the creek is a junction with the Newton Creek Trail. Follow the trail downhill to the Elk Meadows Trail. Turn right to return to the parking area.

Please Note: *Camping is not permitted within Elk Meadows or the island of trees within the meadow area. If you would like to camp near this area, select a campsite in the trees surrounding the meadow. By following this regulation, you will help protect the fragile meadow environment.*

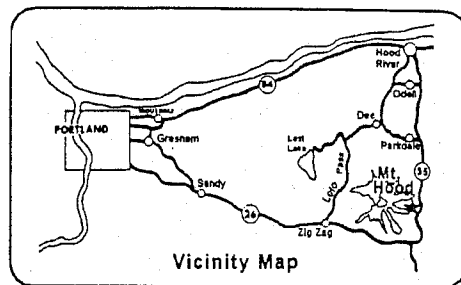
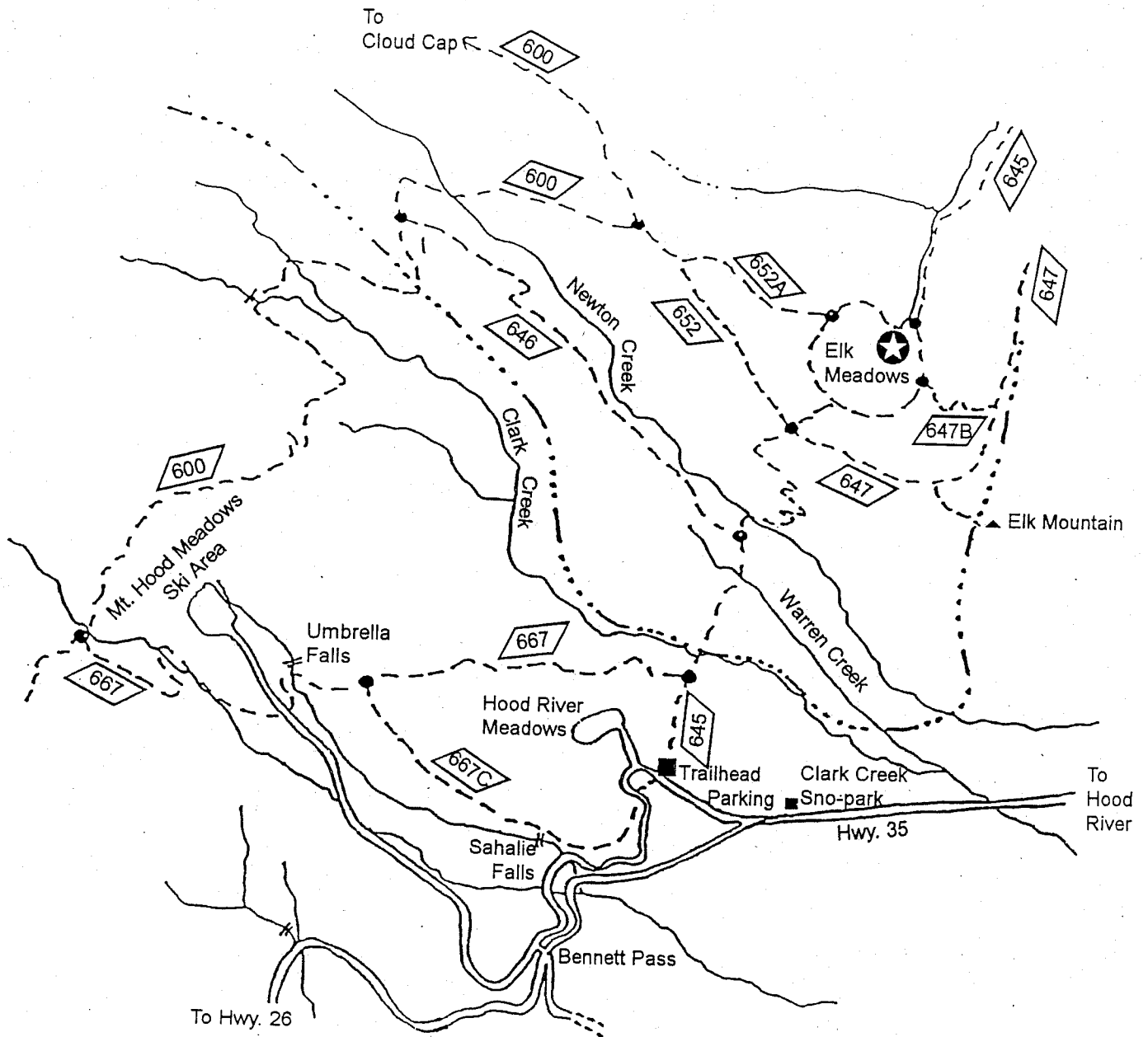
MAP ON REVERSE

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



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