

ELK MEADOWS TRAIL - NORTH



POLLALIE TRAILHEAD TO ELK MEADOWS

TRAIL NAME & NUMBER: ELK MEADOWS #645
LENGTH: 7 MILES
ELEVATION: HIGH = 5050' / LOW = 2900'
USED BY: HIKERS/HORSES
SNOW-FREE: APPROXIMATELY JUNE - SEPTEMBER
WATER: CARRY

TO REACH TRAIL: DRIVE SOUTH FROM HOOD RIVER ON HIGHWAY 35 FOR APPROXIMATELY 25 MILES TO A LARGE PARKING AREA AT POLALLIE TRAILHEAD.

AESTHETIC DESCRIPTION: MATURE STANDS OF TIMBER, SEVERAL CREEK CROSSINGS, ABUNDANT WILDFLOWERS IN SEASON AND THE INCOMPARABLE ELK MEADOWS MAKE THIS A REWARDING DAY OR OVERNIGHT HIKE.

TRAIL DESCRIPTION: TRAIL BEGINS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE HIGHWAY. AFTER A SHORT, STEEP BEGINNING THE TRAIL GAINS THE RIDGETOP, PASSES A SHORT SPUR TRAIL TO AN OVERLOOK (IN 1980 A DEBRIS FLOW SCOURED POLLALIE CANYON AND DESTROYED ALMOST TEN MILES OF HIGHWAY 35), AND CLIMBS GRADUALLY THROUGH MIXED CONIFERS AND HARDWOODS TO A JUNCTION WITH THE LAMBERSON SPUR TRAIL #644. (THIS TRAIL CLIMBS FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES TO 5300' AND ENDS - NICE VIEWS OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THE COLD SPRING CREEK DRAINAGE). PASS THE MT. HOOD WILDERNESS ENTRY STATION AND DESCEND GRADUALLY TO A JUNCTION WITH THE BLUEGRASS RIDGE TRAIL. CROSS A SMALL STREAM AND CONTINUE SOUTH TO COLD SPRING CREEK. AFTER CROSSING THE LOG BRIDGE FOLLOW TRAIL SOUTH, CLIMBING MODERATELY, ALONG THE WEST BASE OF BLUE-GRASS RIDGE. TRAIL PARALLELS COLD SPRING CREEK UNTIL ARRIVING AT THE NORTH EDGE OF ELK MEADOWS. SEVERAL TRAILS RADIATE FROM THE MEADOW AND A LOOK AT THE ACCOMPANYING MAP WILL EXPLAIN THINGS BETTER THAN WORDS. IF YOU CONTINUE STRAIGHT AHEAD THE REMAINS OF A WOODEN SHELTER WILL BE REACHED WITH A MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF MT. HOOD TOWERING ABOVE THE MEADOW. IF THIS IS AN OVERNIGHT TRIP MANY FINE CAMPSITES CAN BE FOUND IN THE TREES SURROUNDING THE MEADOW. CAMPING IS NOT PERMITTED WITHIN THE MEADOW ITSELF, OR THE ISLANDS OF TREES WITHIN THE MEADOW. YOU MAY RETURN TO POLALLIE TRAILHEAD VIA THE BLUEGRASS RIDGE TRAIL IF YOU ARE WILLING TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL MILE AND 600 FEET OF ELEVATION GAIN TO YOUR TRIP. THE BLUEGRASS RIDGE TRAIL IS NOT MAINTAINED TO THE SAME STANDARD AS THE ELK MEADOWS TRAIL AND CAN BE DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW IN SPOTS. THE NORTHERN END OF THIS TRAIL DOES PROVIDE ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF MOUNT HOOD. IF A CAR SHUTTLE HAS BEEN ARRANGED YOU MAY CONTINUE AROUND THE MEADOW AND DESCEND 2 1/2 MILES TO HOOD RIVER MEADOWS, JUST OFF HIGHWAY 35. IN LATE 1988, OR EARLY 1989 THE TRAIL TERMINUS WILL BE MOVED TO THE CLARK CREEK SNO-PARK ON HIGHWAY 35.



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TREAD LIGHTLY ON THE LAND

For thousands of years our wildlands have existed in a complex ecological inter-relationship. This balance can be easily upset or even destroyed. Once damaged, some plants and soils may not recover in our lifetime. Today, nature is struggling in many backcountry and wilderness areas to cope with the results of heavy use. Please, accept the challenge of **NO TRACE** camping and hiking. You **CAN** make a difference.

PLEASE
PACK OUT ALL LITTER
TAKE IT HOME

?EMERGENCY?
CALL 911

REMEMBER
Bicycles are not allowed
in Wilderness areas.

