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MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

MT HOOD INFORMATION CENTER 65000 E Hwy 26 Welches OR 622-7674/622-3360

FLAG MOUNTAIN TRAIL #766

TRAIL BEGINS: 683 meters (2240 feet) Elevation
North side of Road 32 (2632), approximately 100 yds. before road ends.

TRAIL ENDS: 537 meters (1760 feet) Elevation
On Road 2620-200, approximately 150 feet from its junction with Road 2620.

ACCESS #1: Follow US 26, 2.9 miles east of Rhododendron to Rd. 32 (2632). Turn south (right). After 1.1 mile to a sign on the right identifying the trail. Parking is available on the shoulder, or at the road's end approximately 100 yards further.

ACCESS #2: Follow U.S. 26 to the east end of Rhododendron. Turn right on Rd. 20 (2620). Cross a bridge continuing .8 mile to Road 2620-200. Turn left, trailhead is on the right. Limited shoulder parking is available.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: Flag Mountain Trail, short and accessible, offers excellent views of Mt. Hood. dogwood and rhododendron bloom profusely usually in June. This low elevation trail is snow-free most of the year.

Length: 3.4 km (2.1 mi.)

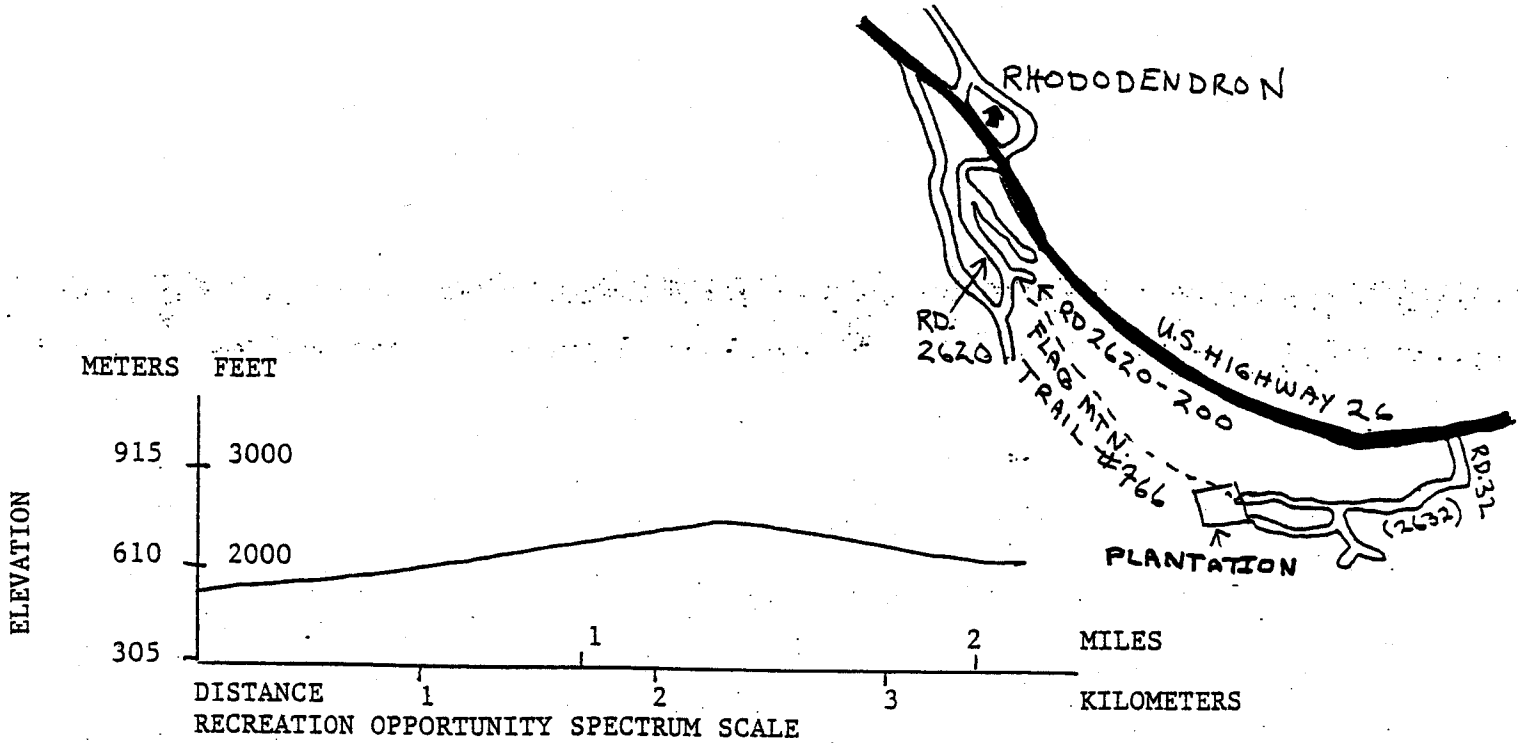


Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER

Use: Light

Difficulty: Moderate



Roaded Natural

NARRATIVE: FLAG MOUNTAIN TRAIL #766

There are many viewpoints along the ridgetop followed by this trail. Mt. Hood framed with flowing rhododendrons is extremely picturesque. June is usually the best month for this sight. Golden chinquapin trees, some 20 to 30 feet tall, as well as flowering dogwood, are also found along the trail.

A leisurely way to enjoy this hike is by utilizing a car shuttle and starting on the higher or eastern trailhead on Road 2632. From this trailhead the trail climbs through the forest, steeply at times, for one-third mile. The first viewpoint, reached in 1 mile, is located in an old burn area. The dead trees found here, as well as in the clearing across the canyon, were caused by the Zigzag Burn of October, 1952. The second viewpoint, a rock outcropping, is found .1 mile further. The third and best viewpoint featuring the town of Rhododendron, Laurel Hill, Tom Dick Mountain, and Mt. Hood is 200 feet away.

At 1.4 miles the trail starts downhill with some short sections being fairly steep. Two additional, lesser viewpoints are found on this section of trail. Three switchbacks lead to the bottom of the trail on Road 2620-200.

Carry water as none is available on the trail.

The trail may be enjoyed by hiking its entire length or by hiking 1 mile from either trailhead to reach the best viewpoint. The steepest portion of the trail is the end from Road 2620-200.

Forest regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on this trail as a safety precaution.

Flag Mountain Trail, although open for horse use, is generally not a favorite of equestrians because of its short length.

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.