

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

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

## HUNCHBACK MTN. TRAIL #793

**BEGINS:** 455 meters (1480 feet) elevation east end of Zigzag Ranger Station parking lot.

**ENDS:** 1323 meters (4800 feet) elevation Trailhead at end of Road 2613.

**ACCESS # 1:** Follow US 26 for 20 miles east of Sandy to the Zigzag Ranger Station.

**ACCESS # 2:** Follow US 26 from Gov't. Camp .4 mile to the entrance of Still Creek Campground. Turn right and follow Road 2650 for one mile. Turn right at the A-frame cabin and continue for one half mile on Road 2612-126 to a four-way intersection. Head south on Road 2613, a rough narrow road, for 8.8 miles to the end of the road.

### ATTRACTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS:

From Zigzag, the trail climbs steeply through the forest to a viewpoint at 2.2 miles of the Salmon River Valley. The trail, with several outstanding viewpoints, then follows the ridge to a spur trail to Devil's Peak Lookout.

Hunchback Mtn. Trail is closed to horses, bicycles and motor-bikes for safety reasons.

**Length:** 10.0 mi. (16.1 km)



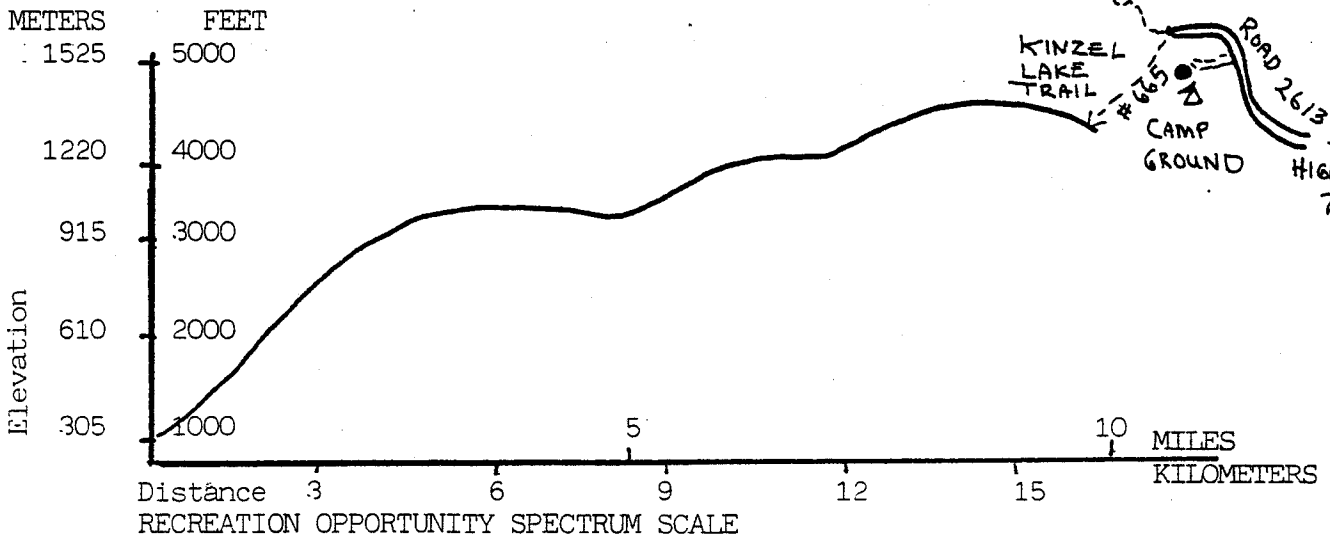
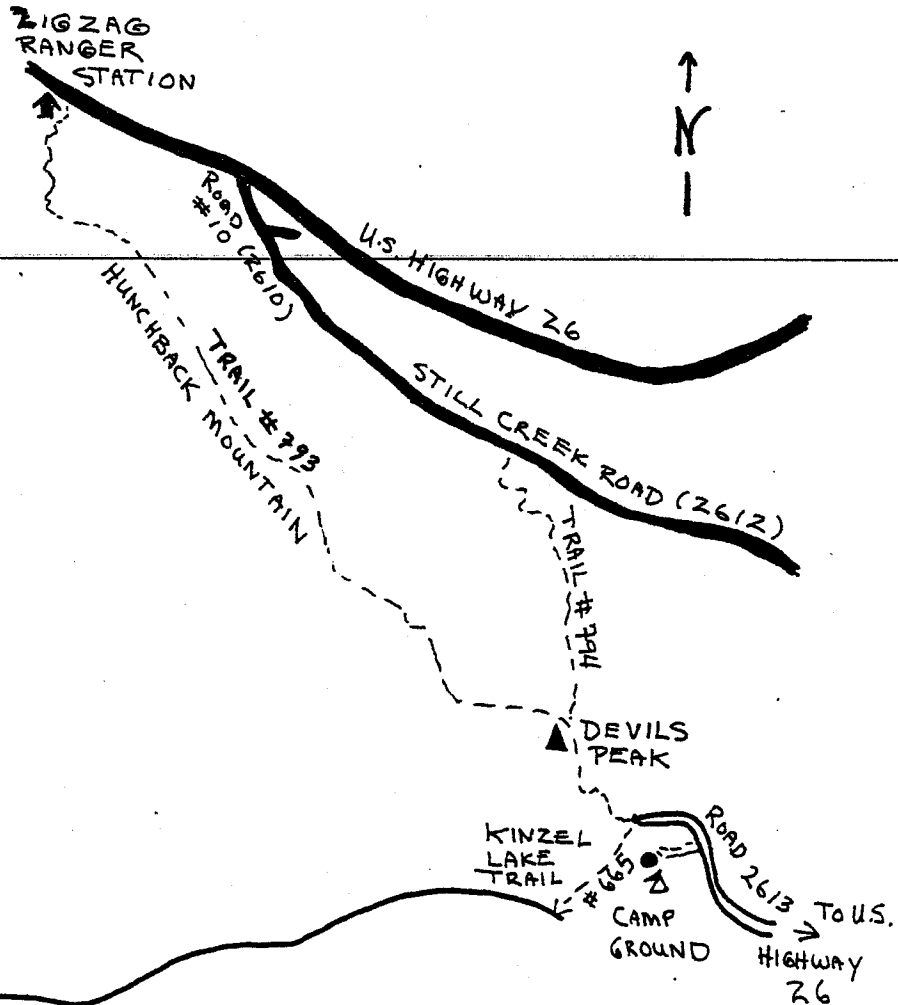
### Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER



**Use:** Moderate

**Difficulty:** Most Difficult



### **NARRATIVE: HUNCHBACK MOUNTAIN TRAIL #793**

Hunchback Trail offers a wide variety of attractions and opportunities. Outstanding viewpoints are scattered along the trail.

On a clear day, views can include Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson and Three Fingered Jack as well as the nearby network of ridge and river valley systems.

In the spring the first few miles of the west end of the trail are usually hikeable before other trails in the area become accessible. This makes Hunchback a good candidate for an early season conditioning hike.

Wildflowers, including rhododendron and beargrass, bloom on segments of the trail. Towards the summer's end, huckleberries can be prolific on the section of trail between Road 2613 and Devil's Peak. Evidence of wildlife is usually apparent on and off the trail.

Access to the Hunchback Trail can also be made via the Kinzel Lake Trail #665 and, for the hiker seeking a rigorous workout, the Cool Creek Trail #794. ~~An interesting 18.4 mile hike can be made by combining the Salmon River and Kinzel Lake trails with Hunchback.~~ This trip offers the contrast of the moist, lush river bottom environment with that of the dry ridgetop. Several options exist for car shuttles.

About 1.3 miles west of the trailhead on Road 2613, a spur trail leads uphill 400 feet to Devil's Peak Lookout. It is one of the few remaining fire lookouts located in the Mt. Hood National Forest. The short tower was constructed at a time when the surrounding area was bare as a result of a severe fire. The thriving forest now encroaches on the view.

Hunchback is not for the faint of heart. Its most moderate section is found between Road 2613 and the Devil's Peak Lookout spur where the trail gradually gains elevation through a series of swithbacks. Other portions of the trail are rocky, narrow and exposed. In several places the trail alternates between steep ascents and descents. The Hunchback mountain trail is closed to horses, bicycles, and motorized vehicles.

The last 8.8 miles of Road 2613 are not recommended for trailers or cars with low clearance. It is a rough, narrow, one-lane, gravel road with turnouts.

As with most ridgetop trails, water should be carried. One tenth mile west of Devil's Peak spur trail is a trail which leads 500 feet downhill (north) to a spring.

### **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.