

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST  
 ZIGZAG, OR 97049 666-0704 or 622-3191

## PIONEER BRIDLE TRAIL #795

**TRAIL BEGINS:** 520 meters (1700 feet) elevation just southwest of US Hwy. 26 at its junction with Road 20 (2620)

**TRAIL ENDS:** 1100 meters (3600 feet) elevation east of Road. 522, across US Hwy. 26 from Ski Bowl West ski resort..

**ACCESS:** Follow US Hwy. 26 east of Rhododendron. Pioneer Bridle Trail can be accessed anywhere south of Hwy. 26 between Road 20 (2620) and Kiwanis Camp Road 2639. Another access point is approximately 100 yards north of the US Hwy. 26 junction with Kiwanis Camp Road 2636 on the east side. A yellow sign signifying the route of a buried cable marks the trail location. The eastern most access point is located on the north side of US Hwy. 26 across from the west entrance into the Ski Bowl Ski resort. Turn north on the spur road 522 and drive a few hundred yards to a small turnout on your right. Barrier posts mark this end of the trail.

**ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS:** The Pioneer Bridle Trail, thought to consist of segments of one of the original wagon routes through this area, travels from the Rhododendron area to a point just west of Government Camp.

**Length:** 13.8 km (8.6 mi.)

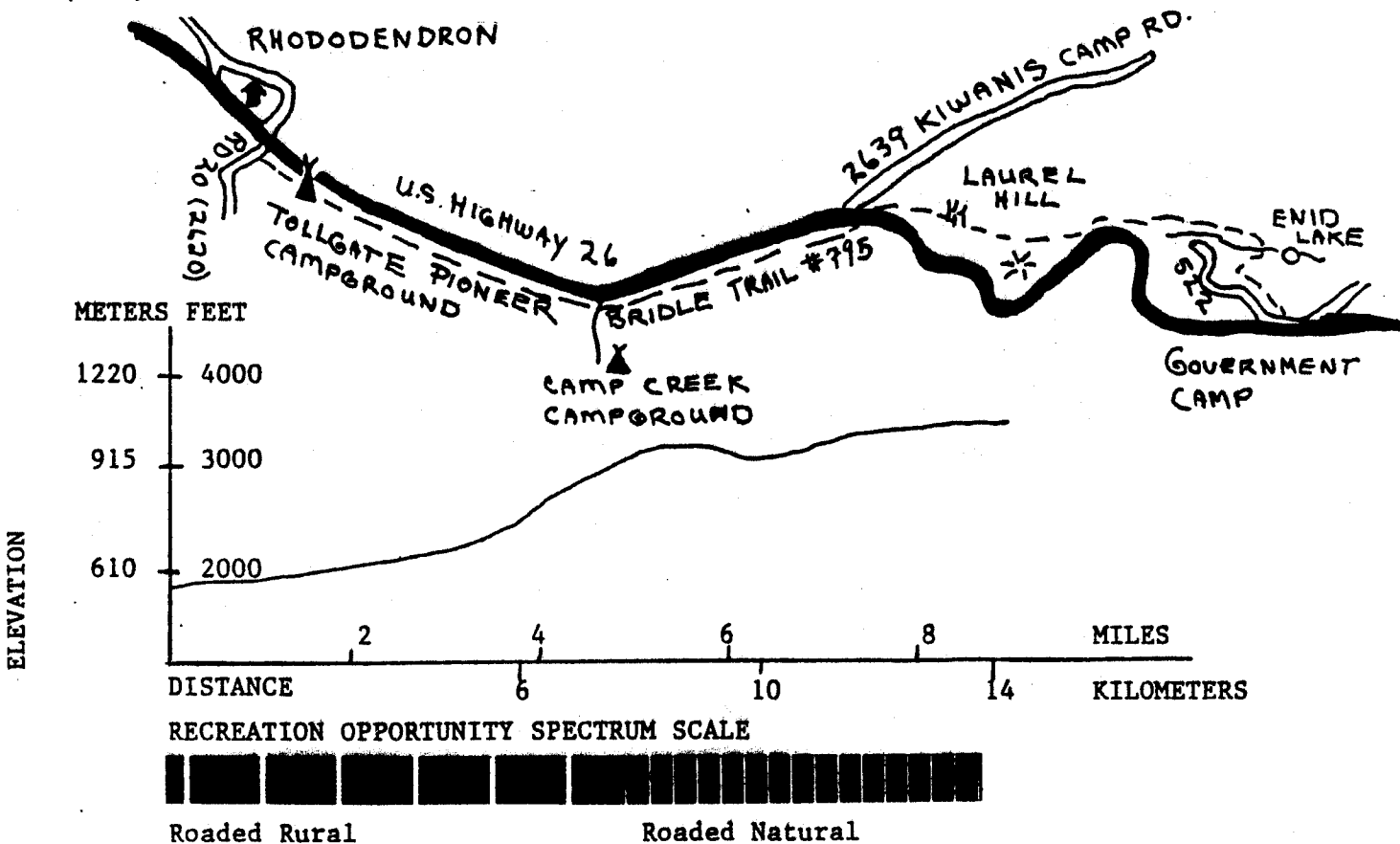


### Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER

**Use:** Light

**Difficulty:** Moderate



### **NARRATIVE: PIONEER BRIDLE TRAIL #795**

The Pioneer Bridle Trail can be enjoyed in short accessible segments. It also provides a pleasant alternative to hiking or horseback riding along the shoulder of U.S. Highway 26. From Road 20 (2620) to Road 2639, the trail essentially follows along the south side of Highway 26 intersected by both Tollgate Campground and a variety of forest roads. Passing the replica of the Tollgate, one can easily imagine this as a pleasant resting spot for the wagons full of pioneers. This section is highlighted by rhododendron blooming, generally, in June.

4.6 miles from the beginning of the trail, cross Highway 26, following Road 2639 approximately 100 yards up its east (right) side. There, a yellow metal sign signifying the route of a buried cable indicates the point of continuation.

From Road 2639, the trail climbs via switchbacks into an open area, part of the 1952 Zigzag Burn. Manzanita bushes cover this area. The trail begins to climb, levels off, crosses a saddle, then fluctuates until a scree slope is crossed. A dangerous abandoned mine shaft is passed 6.5 miles from the trailhead. Use extreme caution in keeping children away from the hole. A few hundred yards past the shaft, pass a short spur trail leading to Highway 26 to a point below the Barlow Road Historical Highway marker.

From this point the Bridle Trail travels downhill under the old highway via a tunnel and along an abandoned section of road. Here the trail is framed with rhododendrons. Stay on the main route, traveling uphill, and cross a small stream twice. The trail switchbacks in a wet area where cedar logs and extensive drainage ditches halt erosion. A few hundred yards further, a wide spur trail to the east (left) leads to Enid Lake, a very shallow, muck-bottomed pond. An observant and quiet visitor can usually enjoy the wildlife in this area.

The blue diamonds high on the trees are used to mark this route as a winter cross-country ski trail. Road 522, described as the trails end, is on your right just past the spur route to Enid Lake.

Pioneer Bridle Trail, partially an integration of various segments of old wagon roads, was a project completed in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Several examples of their handiwork can be seen along the trail.

Pioneer Bridle Trail is shared by both equestrians and hikers. Forest regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles on this trail.

### **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.