



Recreation Opportunity Guide

MT. HOOD INFORMATION CENTER
WELCHES, OREGON 97067
503-622-7674

RAMONA FALLS TRAIL #797

TRAIL BEGINS: 2440 feet (744 meters) elevation
at the end of Forest Road #1825-024.

ACCESS: Follow US Highway 26 three miles east of the Mt Hood Information Center. Turn north (left) onto Lolo Pass Road (Road 18) at Zigzag. Follow it four miles. Turn east (right) onto Road 1825 and continue 0.6 miles, cross a bridge and then continue 1.7 miles to a road junction. Bear left at the junction onto Road 1825-100 and drive 0.3 mile. Take a left onto spur Road #1825-024 to a large open parking lot (0.2 mile).

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This loop trail features a waterfall at its midpoint. The trail follows a moderate grade, though there is a 1000 foot elevation gain between the lower parking lot and the falls. Undoubtedly the most popular day hike next to Cloud Cap in the Mt Hood Wilderness, this trail may be visited by hundreds of people on a weekend day. Some alternative day hikes are the Little Zigzag Falls trail at the end of the Kwanis Camp Road (#2639) or the nearby Lost Creek Nature Trail. Both trails receive light use and are short and scenic. WILDERNESS PERMITS ARE REQUIRED. THEY ARE SELF ISSUING AND AVAILABLE AT THE TRAILHEADS OR WILDERNESS BOUNDARY.

Foot bridges across the Sandy River are REMOVED EVERY YEAR in the late fall and replaced in the late spring. During the winter there is no access to the falls for cross country skiers. Direct questions to the Mt Hood Information Center located 17 miles east of Sandy in the south side of Highway 26.

HORSES ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE RAMONA CREEK SIDE OF THE LOOP TRAIL.

Length: 6.8 miles (10.9km)

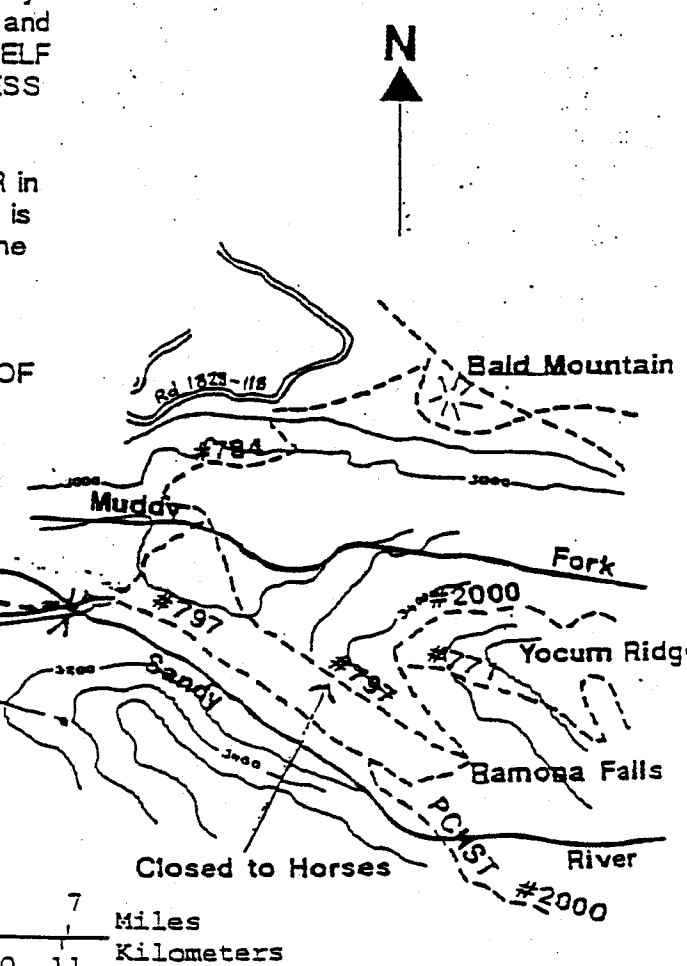
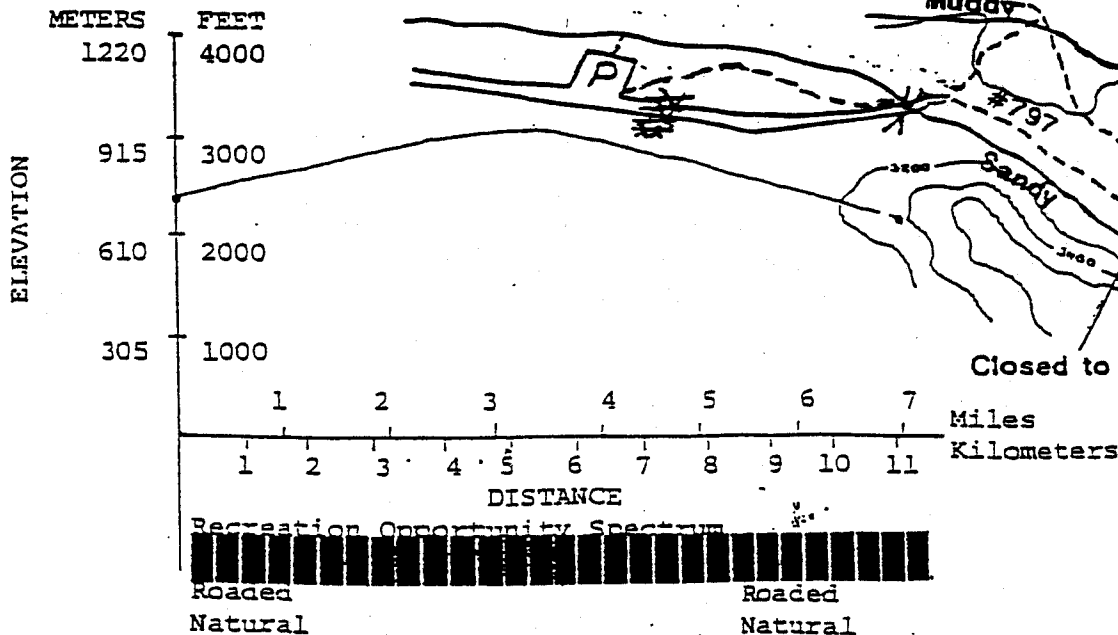


Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER



Use: Extra Heavy
Difficulty: Moderate



NARRATIVE: RAMONA FALLS TRAIL #797

Visitors can park in the lower parking lot off road # 1825-024, hiking approximately 3.3 miles to the falls. The upper parking area off road # 1825-100 is no longer accessible due to past flooding damage and closure.

Starting from the lower trailhead, the trail follows the Sandy River and comes close to the Road #1825-100 at times. Notice the variety of paths the river has taken at times of high water.

The junction with the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCNST) is reached approximately 1.5 miles from the trailhead sign. The PCNST heads southeast (right) and leads to the Sandy River, Paradise Park and then Timberline Lodge in just under 10 miles. Heading northeast, the PCNST and the Ramona Falls Loop coincide until the falls are reached. Past this junction, the trail is shared with equestrians. Those planning on camping in the Ramona Falls area should be aware that camping is allowed anywhere except within 500 feet of Ramona Falls. Any campsite should be out of sight of the falls and the trail. There are two spur trails to the east (right) of the main trail in the area of the falls that lead to the campsites. Plan to spend time searching for naturally nonvegetated campsites tucked away in the trees. Take time to leave NO TRACE of your stay.

The falls area provides a cool environment for a pause before your return trip. Crossing Ramona Creek on a foot bridge, the trail soon passes the second junction with the PCNST. Short sections of this portion of the loop have large, exposed roots left as a result of repetitive winter flood damage. This portion of the trail is dotted with a variety of wildflowers. It is cooler because it follows Ramona Creek. Beautiful rock walls are seen to the east (right) of the trail. One-half mile before the end of the loop, there is a junction with Bald Mountain Trail #784. At this junction there are several group campsites with fire rings. Located outside the wilderness boundary, these sites should be used by those who must have a fire, are camping with a large group, or desire a short hike to a campsite.

The last leg of the loop crosses Ramona Creek and returns to the bridge over the Sandy River. The section along the Sandy River is shared by hikers and equestrians. Hikers objecting to sharing a route with horses will probably want to travel the Ramona Creek portion of the loop both directions to and from the falls. Wilderness regulations prohibit the use of motor vehicles or bicycles on this trail. Wilderness permits are required. They are self-issuing at the trailheads or at the wilderness boundary.

WATER STATEMENT:

Unfortunately, open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal wastes. Water from springs, lakes and ponds 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.

ATTENTION EQUESTRIANS! THE MUDDY FORK SECTION OF THE PCNST IS CLOSED TO HORSES. USE THE BALD MT. TRAIL # 784. HORSE ACCESS TO THE FALLS HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE SANDY RIVER SECTION, THE RAMONA CREEK SIDE IS NOW CLOSED.