

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

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

SALMON BUTTE TRAIL #791

BEGINS: 603 Meters (1980 Feet) Elevation
South of Road 2618, 100 yards up a logging spur in a timber harvest unit.

ENDS: 1486 Meters (4877 Feet) Elevation
Top of Salmon Butte at the junction with an old four-wheel drive road that is now closed as it is in the new Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness.

ACCESS: Follow U.S. Highway 26, 17 miles east of Sandy. Turn south on Salmon River Road 2618, following it 6.7 miles past two bridges to a logging spur on the right.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: Salmon Butte Trail climbs gently and steadily through the forest to the 4,877 foot bald summit of the butte. On a clear day the 360° view includes Mt. Hood, Adams, Rainer, St. Helens, and Jefferson as well as the nearby ridge and river valley systems. The Rhododendron display that is usually at its peak around the 20th of June as well as the larkspur, paintbrush, beargrass and stonecrop make this hike memorable. Those who like the red huckleberries will find an abundance of this fruit in late August and early September. This trail is now in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness and wilderness rules prohibit the use of motorized vehicles and bicycles on this trail.

Length: 7.3km 4.5mi.

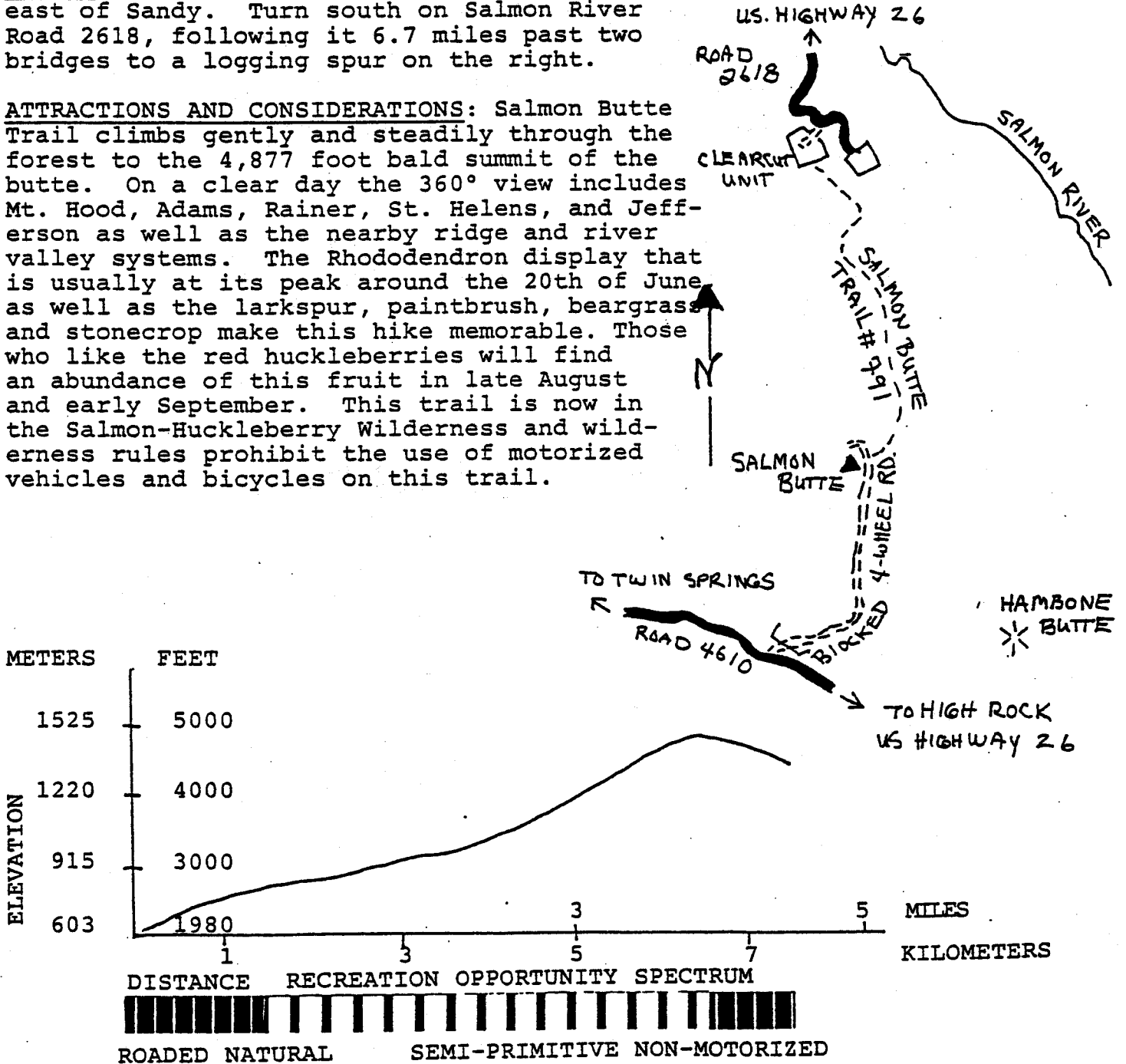


Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER



Use: Light
Difficulty: Moderate



NARRATIVE: SALMON BUTTE TRAIL #791

The overall grade of this trail and the view from the top make Salmon Butte Trail one of the most enjoyable and scenic hikes on the Zigzag Ranger District.

Walk approximately 100 yards up the logging spur road to the middle of the plantation cut and look to your left for the signs which indicate the trail through the harvested unit. Usually in mid-July wild blackberries can be found here.

From the southeastern edge of the unit, the trail travels through second growth Douglas fir for 3.5 miles. At 1.1 miles, the trail intersects with the abandoned South Fork Ridge Trail, which the observant "path-finder" can follow to Mack Hall Creek. Small streams cross the trail at 1.7, 2.5 and 3.9 miles. Trail hits old road, turn right (uphill) .3 mile to the top of the butte, an old lookout site.

The abandoned road to Salmon Butte can also be reached from the west by taking State Highway 224 south from Estacada to Road 4610.

The Salmon Butte Trail is also used by equestrians.

The Salmon Butte Trail is within the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness and regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles and bicycles. Wilderness permits are required. They are self-issuing at the trailhead or at the wilderness boundary.

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.