



MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

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

SALMON RIVER TRAIL #742

TRAIL BEGINS: 488 meters (1600 feet) elevation at the trailhead - Salmon River Road (2618).

TRAIL ENDS: 1006 meters (3300 feet) elevation at the trailhead - Road 2656-309.

ACCESS #1: Follow US 26, 17.9 miles east of Sandy. Turn south on Salmon River Road following it for 5 miles.

ACCESS #2: Follow US 26, 2 miles east of Government camp. Turn south on Road 2656 following it 1.8 mile just past Trillium Lake Campground, turn left heading southwest for 1.9 mile to road 2656-309. Keep right on Road 2656-309 for 2 miles.

ATTRACTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS: Salmon River Trail, designated as a National Recreation Trail, is in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, follows a deep river canyon with temperate rain forest vegetation. As the trail gains 1700 feet in its 14 miles of meandering along the Salmon River, a variety of wildflowers may be observed blooming throughout the spring and summer months. Fishing (fly fishing only) is popular along the lower section. Wilderness permits are required. They are self-issuing at trailheads or at the wilderness boundary. No motorized vehicles, horses or bicycles are allowed.

Length: 24.0km (14.9mi.)

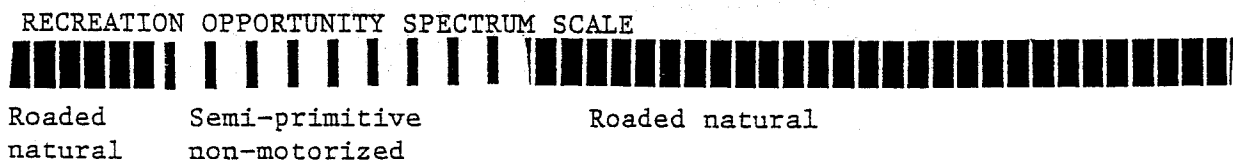
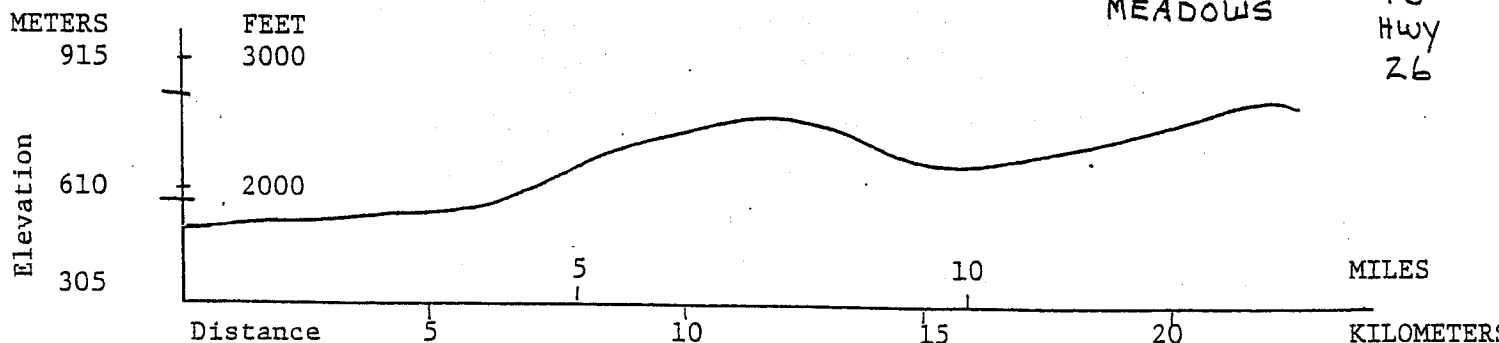
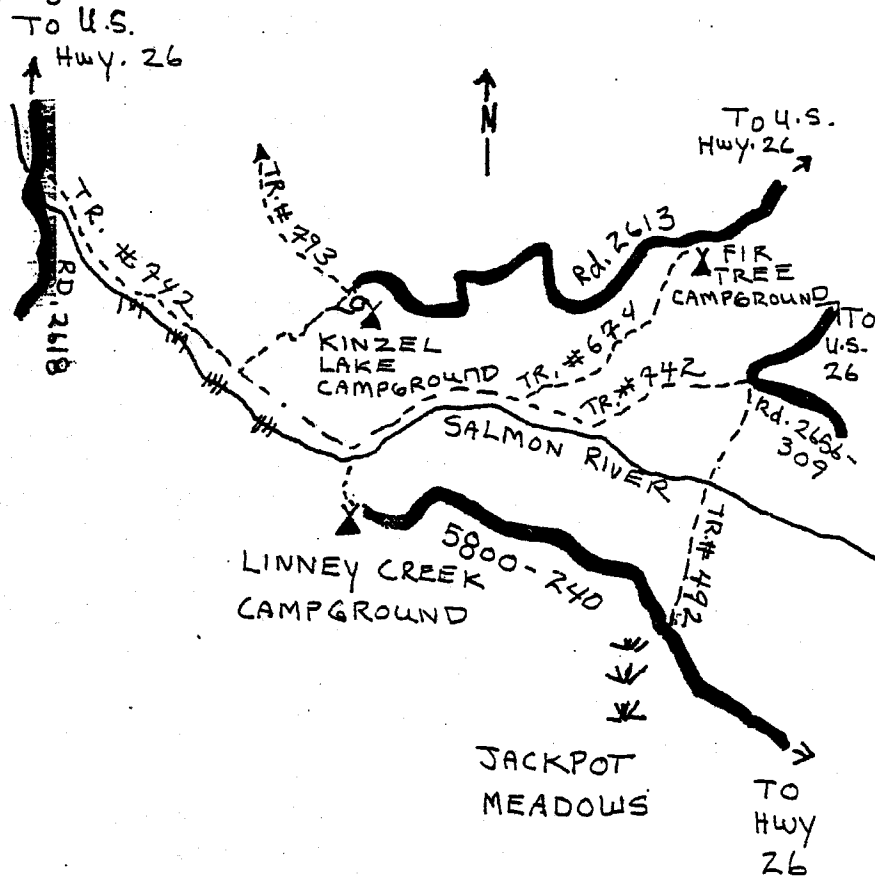


Recommend Season:

SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER

Use: Extra Heavy - From Road 2618 Trailhead to Goat Creek. Medium-Goat Creek to Rd. 2656-309

Easiest



NARRATIVE: SALMON RIVER TRAIL #742

The heaviest use of the Salmon River Trail occurs in the spring and early summer on the lower end which generally is flat and follows along or within a few hundred feet of the river. Three camping areas exist on this section of trail. Those wishing to camp near the river are asked to use them. The heavy use and proximity to the river make pollution and human sanitation problems a very real concern. Take the time to do your washing away from the river's edge and to use the provided "toilet areas." Firewood is scarce around the campsites.

Spring wildflower displays along this section of the trail include bleeding heart, wood violet, penstemon, paintbrush, larkspur and stonecrop. Those interested in fishing should note that current Oregon Fish and Game regulations state that the lower four miles of the river (from the bridge on Road 2618 to Frustration Falls) are open to fly fishing only. Other special regulations apply.

Leaving the river's edge, the trail climbs to a bluff with several viewpoints. The sound of Final and Frustration Falls below can be heard from here. There are no maintained trails down to the steep and hazardous falls area.

Goat Creek, approximately 5 miles east of the western trailhead on Road 2618, is a popular campsite. Other lesser used campsites exist 5.9 miles, 7.0 miles, 8.8 miles (Linney Creek), and 10.6 miles from the west trailhead. This section of trail, scattered with rhododendron, is extremely picturesque when the multitude of small rock and moss-framed creeks swell with spring runoff. Many of these dry up later in the season.

The eastern portion of the trail tends to offer an opportunity for solitude. Start from the Mud Creek trailhead from Road 2656-309. Hiking .4 miles will take you to a viewpoint of the Salmon River Valley and 3.1 miles of hiking will take you to the river. Campsites are located at 3.7 miles.

The Salmon River Trail also can be accessed from Kinzel Lake Trail #665, Fir Tree Trail #674 and from Road 5800-240 (Linney Creek Campground). A short trail leads from Linney Creek Campground to a foot bridge crossing the Salmon River. Those wanting to access the trail at this point should check with the Bear Springs Ranger District regarding the current condition of the bridge and Road 5800-240, a rough one-lane graveled road with turnouts. The stone foundation of the south side of the river is the remains of the former Linney Creek Guard Station. Other evidence of early use of this trail is the occasional ceramic insulators and wire from the old phone line that ran along portions of the trail.

An interesting 18.4 mile hike can be made by combining this trail with Kinzel Lake and Hunchback Trails.

Because hikers use of this trail is generally high, Forest regulations prohibit the use of horses, bicycles, and motorized vehicles as a safety precaution. Salmon River Trail is in the Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness and Wilderness permits are required. They are self issuing at trailheads or at the wilderness boundary. No motorized vehicles or bicycles are allowed in the Wilderness.

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.