

VISTA RIDGE TRAIL #626



Northwest Forest Pass	→	Not Required
Distance	→	2.7 miles one-way
Elevation	→	High 5,700 feet – Low 4,600 feet
Snow Free	→	Mid July – Early October
Difficulty	→	Moderate/Strenuous

Directions to Trailhead: From Hood River, travel south approximately 13 miles on Highway 281 (Dee Highway). Turn right at sign for Dee and Lost Lake. Immediately bear to the left, following signs for Lost Lake. After 8 miles, turn left on Road 18 (Lolo Pass) and continue for 3 more miles. Turn left again on Road 16. After 5 ½ miles, turn right onto Road 1650 and follow to trailhead. Caution: last ½ mile of road is very rough. Alternate: If driving from Portland on Highway 26, turn north on Road 18 at ZigZag to Lolo Pass. At the pass, turn right onto Road 1810 (slightly longer, but in better condition than Road 18). After rejoining Road 18, continue east for 3 ½ miles to Road 16 and follow previous directions.

Trail Highlights: Trail climbs through stands of Mountain Hemlock with occasional views of the Pinnacle to the east and Mt. Hood to the south. The trail provides one of the shorter access routes to the Timberline trail #600. Where the trail connects with the Timberline Trail, several other popular destinations are easily accessible from this point: Elk Cove, Barrett Spur, Eden Park, Cairn Basin, and Wyeast Basin.

Trail Description: Trail begins by following an old road for a few hundred feet before entering the woods. After half a mile, a wilderness entry station and the abandoned Vista Ridge Scenic Trail are reached; continue right. Trail traverses the hillside and dips into a small ravine before climbing the ridge at a moderate grade. Shortly after Mt. Hood comes into full view, the junction with the Timberline Trail is reached.

Three popular destinations are accessible from this connection point with the Timberline Trail:

- 1) By turning west (right), a three mile loop can be made that will visit Eden Park, Cairn Basin, and Wyeast Basin
- 2) Barrett Spur (the rocky ridge that towers 2,300' above Elk Cove) can be reached by traveling cross-country for 1 ½ miles in a southeasterly direction from Wyeast Basin. After ½ mile, the lower slopes of Barrett Spur are reached. Follow the ridge to the summit at 7,853' and enjoy spectacular views of Ladd and Coe Glaciers. Caution: Depending on the time of year, the ridge can be rocky, snowy or icy. A return to the Timberline Trail can be made by going directly down the ridge and past Dollar Lake, a small tarn.
- 3) Elk Cove is two miles to the east.

MAP ON REVERSE

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

Hood River Ranger District
6780 Highway 35 – Parkdale, OR 97041
541-352-6002
www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood



200606

VISTA RIDGE TRAIL #626

