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Location

The Oregon Skyline Trail follows the backbone of the Cascade Range entirely across the State from the Columbia River to the California line. It is a part of the Pacific Crest Trail System which traverses the Cascades of the Pacific Northwest and the Sierra of California north and south across the United States from the Canadian to the Mexican borders.

Caution

No one unfamiliar with rough mountain travel and unable to take care of himself under conditions of physical hardship should undertake this trip, or any part of it, unless a capable guide is engaged in advance.

History

In 1920 the route of the Oregon Skyline Trail was located and posted from Mt. Hood to Crater Lake, and was given formal recognition as one of the major scenic travel routes of the Pacific Northwest. It was then made up of a combination of many pieces of rough trails, often with but a frail remnant of tread, usually devious in direction, the whole tied together in a quite intangible manner, and quite apparently a choice by course of least resistance.

Today the kinks have been ironed out. The trail is relocated in almost its entirety to occupy an almost perfect location in the very backbone of the mountains. Where in earlier days it wound rather aimlessly through tiresome stretches of lower country, it now traverses the spectacular hinterland and ventures into the breath-taking scenic areas for which it was intended.

The Oregon Skyline Trail crosses the historic, and famous, routes of frontiersmen, the Old Oregon Trail, the Old Scott Trail, the Old Santiam Road, the Old Military Road from Fort Klamath to Eugene. It skirts the battle ground of the Modocs and Warm Springs Indians near Wickiup Plain, and cuts through old Indian camps, in fact coincides exactly in some short stretches with the old Indian trails. We sense strongly the romance of early American history. Here is still a primitive America, unspoiled, refreshing and invigorating to the imagination.

General Description

From Columbia River to the California border, the total distance along this trail is about 400 miles. Space is too small in this folder to mention but a few of the most soul-stirring features: the majestic Columbia River and Bonneville Dam at the north end; thence southward past Lost Lake and high on the flanks of Mt. Hood; then Mt. Jefferson and Jefferson Park, an alpine flower garden unexcelled in Oregon State. Thence, still going south, we pass

Primitive Areas

The entire trip takes place through a wilderness zone, which is emphasized by three formally designated Primitive Areas: the Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson and Mountain Lakes Areas, which are shown on the map. The last named is a few miles off the main trail.

Methods of Travel

Walking with a back pack is perhaps the simplest, though slowest and most tiring way. To complete the entire trip requires about one month. To see the country properly, a month and a half or two months are better. Food supplies and a very light bed may constitute the most of one's pack. This method is recommended only for those who have had a great deal of experience in mountain hiking.

Horses, mules, or burros with packs make the going easier. The Forest Service reserves camping places where there is good grass or horse feed at convenient intervals along the route.

An automobile may be used to cut off several days walking time at either end of the trip, or it may be used to meet the traveller at a selected point between.

Packers equipped to handle parties of three to ten persons, or more, may be obtained, but arrangements should be made well in advance.

Camping Accommodations

The map shows by legend or symbol various improvements or features of interest to the trail traveller. There are a few improved camps along the route. The traveller may, of course, have to camp at other places than those marked, but he should remember that he is in wild country and will probably find no accommodation except wood and water and perhaps a few rough fireplaces and woodmen's tables. Most meals will have to be eaten from the lap, a rock, or a log. With an organized pack trail, a party could plan to camp always near running water. As a rule, the lakes are all pure and wholesome, and though a little warm for drinking, are satisfactory for an emergency camp. Where the trail traverses the west side of the Cascade Range, running streams are generally plentiful and there are many camping places to choose from. East of the main divide the trail passes through a drier region, but still with ample camping waters.

The Forest Service is constructing rustic log or rock shelters at key points along the trail. These are designed to take care of the primitive need of foot or horse travellers. These will be plenty roomy to take care of average traffic, but in emergency, may have to serve for larger and mixed groups.

OREGON SKYLINE TRAIL 1936



PACIFIC CREST SYSTEM U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE REGION-6 GUIDE NO. 35 OREGON

Communication and Supplies

Communication with the outside world is not easy. Telephones are available at only a few points. The map shows resorts, Forest Lookouts and Stations that are equipped with telephones, which service is available to the public in emergency. The mountain resorts, besides furnishing meals, lodging, baths, boats, etc., have in stock camper supplies.

In some sections, the traveller need carry but a light load if he takes advantage of commercial accommodations, but in other sections he must travel several days between such supply points.

There is an occasional Forest Guard Station or Government Camp along the trail. Supplies in these places are usually purchased at personal expense. There is no provision for sale or gift of Government supplies such as those used in work camps. The Government and its officers should not be expected to furnish any subsistence accommodations to travellers except in cases of extreme emergency. Therefore Oregon Skyline Trail travellers are warned to be entirely dependent upon their own resources.

Much of the pleasure of any trip depends upon the planning. Annoyances and disappointments sometimes mar the trip because the plan was incomplete -- some little thing forgotten. Don't forget matches, candles, salt, and mosquito netting.

Forest Supervisors in charge of the five National Forests through which the Oregon Skyline Trail passes will give travellers information regarding packers and pack outfits if the matter is taken up with them in advance.

Camp-Fire Permits

Camp-fire permits are required for all National Forests in Oregon and Washington. The National Forests through which the Oregon Skyline Trail passes are as follows, starting from the north:

Forest	Headquarters
Mount Hood	Portland, Oregon
Deschutes	Bend, Oregon
Willamette	Eugene, Oregon
Umpqua	Roseburg, Oregon
Rogue River	Medford, Oregon

Fishing, Hunting, and Other Sports

The larger lakes have excellent fishing, and many of the smaller lakes are well supplied with trout.

Eastern brook fry were planted in smaller lakes along the Skyline Trail in 1920. The larger lakes and many of the smaller ones have been kept stocked regularly ever since. Diamond Lake is famous for the number and size of its rainbow trout, and the State hatchery at the outlet keeps it well supplied. Boats are available at some of the larger lakes, but rafts may be necessary for fishing on other lakes.

two almost unconquerable spires, Three-Fingered Jack and Mt. Washington, the great Bellnap lava blanket, then closely following one another, the North, Middle and South Sisters. Next we come to a region of large lakes: Waldo, more than a mile above sea-level; Odell, a famous beauty spot, Crescent, Diamond, the great fishing water, and at last Crater Lake, the incomparable, centered in the National Park of that name. Further south, we find on the trail two more sizeable lakes, Fourmile and Lake of the Woods, a great favorite with people of southern Oregon. In this country of large lakes, we pass two lesser snow-caps: Diamond Peak and Mt. McLaughlin.

A Lake Country

Probably the most popular of the many recreation and scenic assets of this Trail route are the tremendous number of mountain lakes which lie alongside or within a few miles of the Trail. Besides the larger lakes already mentioned, there are about 500 smaller lakes nestled in the nooks and crannies of the mountains. Many of these are so much a part of the wilderness that few people ever find them or get a taste of the trout that hungrily await the fly. Others are on the trailside and invite the traveller to stay an hour or maybe a week or two. In the estimate of lakes, we have not counted the thousands of ponds and pools too small for fishing, but which are an important part of a beautiful landscape.

Highways and Railroads

While the trail crosses several modern highways and a railroad, the crossings are transverse, and the traveller is only for brief periods away from the remoteness, out of touch with the wilderness zone of the high Cascades. These roadways in fact offer many and varied opportunities for shorter skyline trips to those who have not time or money for the big journey.

The traveller and explorer of this trail must largely hunt out and discover for himself the uncounted features of interest made accessible by this trail.

Trail Connections

It will be noted on the map that the Oregon Skyline Trail offers a few alternate routes. These will be increased as time goes on to allow the choice of either side of the higher mountains. There are scores of short spur trails to nearby mountain tops, lakes, or other features, which can not be shown on the map. Besides these, there are many connecting trails to the lowland. These offer innumerable loop trail trips for those who can make only a small section of the Oregon Skyline Trail at a trip.

Nearly all of the lakes are good for bathing. Lakes up to 6,000 feet in elevation, especially smaller ones, are warm enough for a comfortable swim. Many lakes have pumice beaches, very pleasant for swimming. Odell Lake has treacherous beaches and is rather chilly for the ordinary bather; this lake is frequented mainly for its scenic beauty and fishing.

Blacktail deer are common within a short distance of the trail, in the ridges and creek bottoms to westward. Mile deer travel the country east of the summits. Black or brown bear are plentiful, more especially in the huckleberry patches during the later summer months. Grouse and pheasants, though not plentiful, are seen occasionally. Cougar, lynx, and bobcats are there, but not commonly seen. The State game laws apply in the National Forests as elsewhere, and all forest rangers are deputy game wardens.

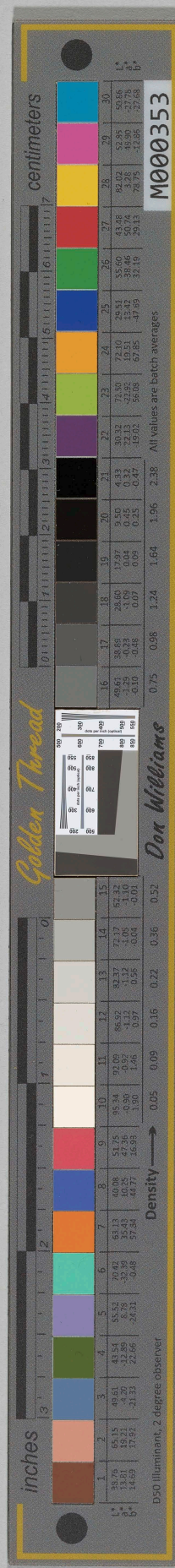
The region has wonderful possibilities for mountain climbing and hiking, in a country which is still in the rough. Portions of the trail are being used in winter for cross-country ski trips.

Forest Fires and Sanitation

Much of the charm of Oregon's mountains is due to the forests, and fire will destroy this charm. The traveller should remember that he is in a country which is very difficult of access by the fire-fighting organization of the Forest Service, and that at all times particular care must be used with fire in the forest. Make every effort to see a forest officer before taking a trip, for in a few minutes' conversation a more thorough knowledge of fire prevention may be obtained than in hours or days of study of written instructions or advice; besides, you will need a camp-fire permit.

Remember also your brother travellers who will be coming after you and who must use your camp. Leave it as clean or cleaner than you found it. Bury all garbage and body excrement at least 200 feet from water supply. State and Federal sanitation laws are plain and based on common sense, and it is the duty of every camper, traveller, and tourist, to follow the well-recognized fire and sanitation rules. The careful camper is welcome on the National Forests, and he will find few restrictions on his movements.

The Oregon Skyline Trail goes through the high country of five National Forests, but there are few forest rangers along the trail except for short periods as they go about their regular work; they are counting on YOU to put out YOUR camp-fire.



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