



Mount Hood National Forest
 Clackamas Ranger District
 595 E. Industrial Way
 Estacada, OR 97023
 503-630-8700

Ripplebrook Guard Station
 61431 Hwy 224
 Estacada, OR 97023

REQUIRED

Pacific Crest Trail # 2000

LENGTH:	10.00 miles	USE:	Heavy
ELEVATION:	4,400 to 5,700 Ft.	DIFF:	Moderate
USGS MAP:	Olallie Scenic Area	MT.BK.RTG.	Closed
AVG. GRADE	4 %	MAX. GRD.	21 %

ACCESS AND USE:

The P.C.T. is open to hikers and horses, but closed to all wheeled traffic, including Mt. bikes. It intersects the Olallie Scenic Area on a north/south axis. For purposes of defining its route through the area, we have the Scenic area trail head starting near the Olallie Meadows camp ground at the Russ Lake trail crossroad, and its southern terminus at the Jefferson Wilderness trail head facility, near Breitenbush Lake. The trail is usually clear of snow by July 1st and is passable until late October, or the first snows of winter. There is no potable water available along its route except at the Olallie Lake Guard Station. Toilets available at Olallie Meadows and Jefferson Wilderness trail head.

Access to the northern trail head: Forest Service rd. 46 to 4690. Left turn to the 4220 Skyline Rd. Right turn to Olallie Meadows camp ground, follow camp ground loop rd. to the turnaround.

Southern Terminus trail head: Forest Service rd. 46 to 4220 Skyline rd. near the Willamette Nat. Forest boundary. Left turn approx. 6 1/2 miles to the Jefferson Wilderness trail head parking lot. The P.C.T. crosses the road where the turn-off to the parking area leaves the 4220 rd.

DESCRIPTION:

Very little can be written in this forum about the Grand-daddy of all American hiking trails that hasn't been written before. Comprising one of the longest continual hiking trails built specifically for recreation, it makes its way over 2,500 miles from the Canadian border through the States of Washington, Oregon, and California, all the way to the Mexican border. For purposes pertaining to the scenic area, will will begin the trail log at The Russ Lake trail junction, at the north end of the area, and follow it to the Jefferson Wilderness trail head parking facility on the southern most point of the area, at the Jefferson Wilderness boundary. It is approx. 3 miles to Jefferson Park from this point. Breitenbush camp ground is 2/10 of a mile north, on a beautiful high Cascade lake, and provides a great jumping off point for destinations north or south on the Pacific Crest Trail, and is only 6 1/2 miles east of Forest service rd. 46 on the 4220 Skyline rd.

The P.C.T. is a great trail to experience the diversity of the Olallie Scenic area. Along its north south route you will find all manner of lakes, peaks, valleys, alpine meadows, volcanic cinder cones, and flora and fauna native to the area. In the summer you may also encounter many interesting hikers, walking the entire distance of the trail from Mexico to Canada, or vice versa. Due to its heavy traffic, it may not be the most ideal place to observe some of the more shy wildlife in the area, but Deer and Elk do use it as a primary route north and south. Over its course it bisects several primary trails in the scenic area network. They include Russ Lake #716, Olallie Butte trail #720, Olallie Lake trail #731 at the Olallie lake Gaurd Station, Red Lake trail #719, Double Peaks trail #735, Ruddy Hill trail #714, and the Horseshoe Saddle trail #712. There are camping sites all along the way as well. Please use existing fire rings for safety and to preserve fragile ground cover. Also please respect the rights of other campers, take only pictures, and leave only footprints.

TRAIL MILEAGE LOG:

0.00 Log begins at the Russ Lake trail intersection. At this point it is one half mile to the right to Olallie Meadows camp ground, and 2/10ths of a mile to the left to Russ Lake

- 0.10 Path winds through dense Lodgepole stands, with Mt. and Western Hemlock interspersed here and there. The forest floor is thick with Mt. Grouseberry, Bear Grass Salad, Golden Chinquapin, Oregon Boxwood, and Rhododendron.
- 0.20 Trail winds through interesting rock garden type terrain with small hillocks here and there to the right and left, with thicker Lodgepole stands becoming dominate.
- 0.30 Course passes large, rocky, crater-like depression on the left. Unlike anything else observed in this area. Possibly volcanic in nature or a dry lakebed? Interesting lack of mature trees in center of depression, leaving more questions about its origins. Nice views of Olallie Butte on the left here.
- 0.35 Path meets (3/10th of a mile long) spur trail leading to the Lodgepole trail and the 4220 rd. turning off to the right in a westerly direction.
- 0.60 Trail continues over and around a series of small hills and rocky outcroppings.
- 1.00 Path continues moderate, steady climb. Trail surface becomes rocky an uneven, whereas up to this point has been fairly smooth, soft and dirt covered. Trail passes close enough to the 4220 rd. that you can here the traffic. If needed, one can bushwhack due west 1/4 mile and pick up the road here. Not recommended without a compass though, as it is possible to become lost in very short order in this area. Elevation at the 1 mile mark, 4,640 ft.
- 1.10 Pathway reaches the power line corridor. Once again the dominate tree is Lodgepole pine, planted when the corridor was cleared for construction. Bare spots contain the state flower, Oregon Grape, in places, as well as Oregon Boxwood.
- 1.20 Trail passes southernmost tower, and exits corridor after .15 of a mile. Power line road is crossed here as it traces its route along the southern edge of corridor.
- 1.25 P.C.T. intersects the Olallie Butte trail #720, at this junction. Left takes you up the butte, right turn takes you to the 4220 rd., 2/10ths of a mile to the west.
- 1.60 Trail draws even with Olallie Butte at this point, which is due east.
- 2.00 Pathway goes through a series of ups and downs, gradually gaining elevation, which at the two mile mark is 4,780 ft.
- 2.10 From here, on the western shoulder of Olallie butte, one can see the layout of the land to the west very clearly, and the trail surface is smooth and clear of rocks.
- 2.3 Path leads into a dense stand of Mt. Hemlock and Silver Fir on either side of the route. Old Man's Beard, Mosses, and Lichens hang heavy on the timber and on the ground top layer.
- 2.4 Interesting area, due to the fact that during rainy and moist periods, the groundcover along here is blanketed heavily with deep green moss. Very beautiful and other-worldly looking, almost brings to mind a putting green on a golf course.
- 2.60 Path travels through a large area of blow-down. Fairly recent damage, this area is exposed to high winds from the west, during storms.
- 2.6-3.0 Trail climbs upwards on a gradual slope, through unusual rock formations and outcroppings of a unique and interesting nature.
- 3.00 Elevation at the 3 mile mark, 4,920 ft.
- 3.25 Trail breaks over final hill and into the Olallie basin near first lake.
- 3.40 Pathway intersects the 4220 Skyline approx. 1/10 of a mile north of the Olallie Lake Guard Station. If you look to the left (south) about 500 ft. You can just see the flag in front of the station. The P.C.T. hiker registration box is located at this junction also. The Forest Service requests that all P.C.T. users register here to help them keep track of the volume, and extant of trail usage in this section of the trail.

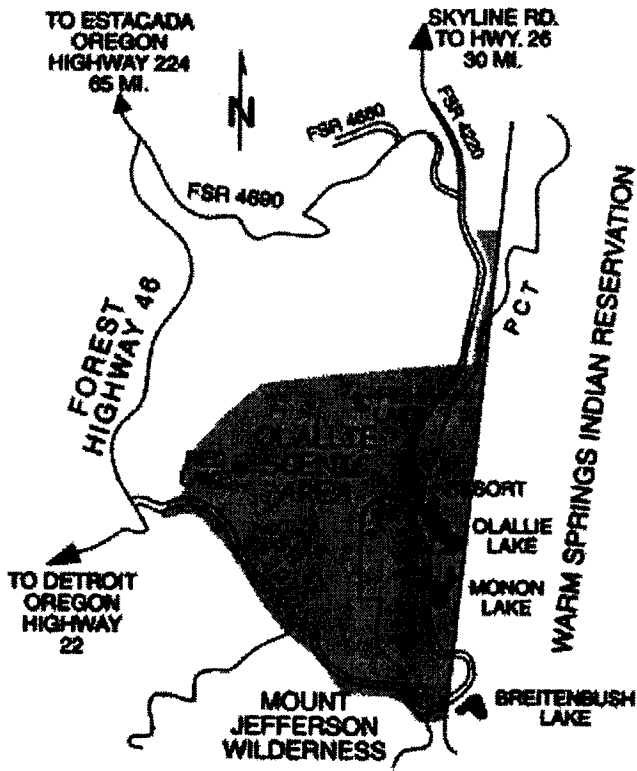
- 3.45 Just after crossing the road, the path meets the shore of Head Lake, with its lovely, sparkling clear waters. It is so clear that on a still day when the light is right, from the rocky bluff where the trail passes, one can trace the entire outline of the rocky lake bottom. A wooden swimming platform has been built here for use by the intrepid soul that can tolerate the cold, brisk, waters of a high cascade lake. Several large, well developed disperse campsites are also lakeside.
- 3.50 Trail comes to a four way intersection on the south end of Head lake. A left turn here brings you back to the 4220 directly in front of the Olallie Lake Forest Service Guard Station, which is usually manned with F.S. personal from early June to the end of September. The guard station has maps, wilderness permits, and information on the area. Also, there is a small country store at the Olallie Lake Resort, located 100 yds. due east (or directly behind) the guard station. There is also a picnic ground, lodging, boat rentals, toilets, and great fishing at this location.
- 3.50-3.70 Here you begin to ascend towards the Upper Lakes basin, and the ridge that separates the Olallie basin from the Clackamas drainage course. It bisects the area on an approx north south axis, and forms the exact point of the Cascade divide. The P.C.T. follows this approx. ridge and geographical divide from this point all the way to the Breitenbush area. At 3.6 miles you pass several unnamed ponds on the right of the path. Olallie Butte view behind you is spectacular from this vantage point.
- 3.70-4.00 At this juncture the route takes a slightly steeper course, continuing towards the top of the basin. A mid-ridge plateau levels the path gradually, with interesting rock formations and drop offs. Lodgepole, Hemlock, and Pacific Silver Fir make up the treeline.
- 4.00 Elevation reaches 5,110 ft.
- 4.15 Path goes by tiny Scharf Lake, which is a few steps off to the right at this point. Possibly the smallest named lake in the scenic area.
- 4.20 Coming around a sweeping turn to the right, you are rewarded with a great view south towards Mt. Jefferson and the Olallie basin.
- This is a great spot to view Olallie butte and lake as well. As you climb upward, you find yourself traveling on a high, ridge-like outcropping of rock, with incredible tree-top views of the surrounding forest. From here you can see the layout in all directions.
- 4.4 Another right brings you climbing more rocks, near the top of the outcropping.
- 4.5 A few steps off the trail to the left in this area brings fantastic views of Monon Lake and surrounding woods.
- 4.75 As you round another turn, you come face to face to with the biggest pile of rocks you can imagine. Actually a partial monolith, this broken looking pile of rocks is the "third" double peaks glacial deposit.
- 4.95 Trail comes to the 4-way Red Lake trail #719 intersection. A right turn here takes you towards Sheep Lake. A left and you come the the 4220 rd in about 1 and 1/4 miles east, at the Red Lake trail head.
- 5.00 Heavy forest. Elevation at this point is 5,300 ft.
- 5.20 The preceding 2/10 of a mile is a gently up and down track through deep forest with a very good hiking surface. The climb is steady, but of moderate steepness, making for a pleasant hike.
- 5.3 Top Lake is visible from this point, about 200 yds. downhill and to the east.
- 5.45 Upper Lake trail junction turns right at this point, and to stay on the P.C.T southbound, you must take this right. It is very easy to miss this important turn. It appears the main path continues in a straight line, but the P.C.T. goes right. The only marker at this intersection is a small sign pointing to the right and reading "Upper Lake". If you miss the turn and continue on straight, this path takes you down a series of switchbacks and ends up at the Top Lake/Red Lake junction. If you get this far you are effectively walking in a circle, and your best choice is to follow the Red Lake trial back up to the P.C.T., or retrace your steps back to the Upper Lake Junction. The distance is about the same, either way.

- 5.50 Trail passes Upper Lake on your right, in a southerly direction.
- 5.60 For the next 5/10ths of a mile the course takes you along a flat plateau, dotted with several unnamed lakes and ponds. A very flat type of terrain, it has small meadows, water courses, intermingled with short but very old Hemlock and Lodgepole Pines. A very unique, semi open area, carpeted with deep green mosses and grasses.
- 5.90 Upper Lakes, Double Peaks trail leads off to the right. Upper Lake comes into view. Many nice disperse camping sites.
- 6.00 Upper Lake, east shore. Elevation 5,360 ft.
- 6.2 Path begins to trace a good-sized watercourse, in the bottom of a small canyon. Lovely and unique high Cascade riparian area.
- 6.40 Here the trail comes suddenly upon a very interesting high open meadow, lush with grasses and plants. It is unusually large and level for this high up, at least the size of two football fields, side by side.
- 6.75 Here the Many Lakes Viewpoint comes along as the trail rounds an outcropping in its path. It is appropriately named with View, Timber, Monon, and Olallie Lakes all visible from this vantage point. Between the 6.4 and 6.75 mile marks, the trail climbs briskly to its highest point in the scenic area, at 5,650 ft.
- 7.00 Elevation at the Seven mile mark, 5,590 ft.
- 7.00-7.30 Path descends gradually and continues south.
- 7.40 Winding through heavy oldgrowth, the trail begins a slight climb once again.
- 7.50 Pathway skirts the north slope of Ruddy Hill, about 1/3 of the way up its base at this point. Volcanic pumice and mudflows can be seen crossing the trail here and there.
- 7.85 Here you come to the Ruddy Hill trail #714 turning off to the right. Path is immediately blocked by blowdown, making it difficult to locate. If you come to the Horseshoe Saddle junction, you have missed the Ruddy Hill turn-off and need to backtrack about 2/10ths of a mile.
- 8.00 Horseshoe Saddle trail #712 is at this point on the left. It is about a mile to Horseshoe Lake and the 4220 rd, via this route. the elevation at the 8 mile mark is 5,340 ft.
- 8.20 Here the pathway comes to its junction with the Gibson Lake trail #708 again on the left as you are traveling south.
- 8.25 Trail begins steeper ascent, up the north face of the hillside and ridge that separates the North Fork of the North fork of the Breitenbush river basin from the Olallie and Upper Lakes basin.
- 8.35 Path enters an interesting rock garden switchbacks toward the west.
- 8.50 One more switchback to the south, around a knoll, and the trail breaks up and over to the south side of the ridge facing Pyramid Butte and the Breitenbush basin. Spectacular views of Mt. Jefferson.
- 9.00 Maintaining a moderate climb, the trail follows near the top of the ridge line, in a southeasterly direction. Trail is extremely rocky and the route crosses over a couple of very wide scree slopes. Elevation, 5,625 ft.
- 9.10 Incredible landscape, almost Lunar in nature as the path skirts along the top of the ridge, finally giving way to the flat top of a very high plateau, and a beautiful alpine meadow. If it is late afternoon, water reflects brightly off the rarely seen Spinning Lake to the southwest and down the slope about 3/4ths of the way to the 4220 rd., which is also visible in spots along here.
- 9.20 Trail passes small, unnamed Alpine lake on the right at this point.
- 9.30 Path reaches highest point on ridge at 5,650 ft.

- 9.35 Another Lodgepole pine stand dominates the landscape here, oddly shaped ancient trees grow to a maximum of about 25 ft high, due to elevation.
- 9.40 Another small alpine lake dots the landscape. Although unnamed at this point, both these small lakes are growing, and sometime soon will probably need names. There are excellent camping sites right here, and the little lake has a rocky bottom, which is good for swimming, and is small enough to retain some solar heating in mid-summer. Owing to its tiny size, please be sure not to introduce any pollutants into it and please use existing fire rings, so not to damage the fragile shoreline.
- 9.50 Trail begins its descent down to Breitenbush area and the 4220 rd.
- 9.70 Trail switches back across hillside and faces Breitenbush Lake below. Pathway has recently been widened and smoothed along here and is easy on the feet and very pleasant to walk along.
- 10.00 Pathway comes to the 4220 Skyline rd, at the place where the Jefferson Wilderness parking facility access rd. turns off it to the right. You can recognize this road easily as it is graveled with red pumice rock that stands out brightly.

Breitenbush camp ground is 2/10ths of a mile to the north at this junction, and Jefferson park is 3 miles south on the P.C.T.

Please Note: Wilderness permits are required from here to points south on the P.C.T. Day use walking permits can be obtained and registered at a small box about 30 ft. south from the end of the parking lot, just beyond the information board. Overnight permits must be obtained at Forest Service District Ranger Stations, or at the Olallie Lake Guard Station.



Operating under Special Use Permit with the Mt. Hood National Forest.

