

Recreation Opportunity Guide



U.S. Forest Service
Mt. Hood National Forest
Clackamas River Ranger District
595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, OR 97023

RUDDY HILL TRAIL #714

Access: This trail is most easily accessible from the Horseshoe Lake campground. On Forest Road 46 coming from Estacada, take a left on the 4690, Follow this road until it ends at a T junction and take a right on the 4220. Continue on the 4220 past Olallie Lake and Monon Lake until you reach the Horseshoe Lake campground. In the campground, the Horseshoe Saddle Trail #712 takes off to the right, initially skirting around the northern edge of the lake in the back of several campsites. This mile-long trail ends at its junction with the Pacific Crest Trail. Take a right on the PCT (head northward) and travel approx. three-tenths of a mile until you see a wooden sign on your left for the Ruddy Hill trail.

Length: 0.8 miles.

Elevation: 5,350 to 5,943 feet.

Snow-free season: Early July through September

Users: Open to hiking, biking and horses. However, due to its relentlessly steep 11 percent grade, the trail is recommended for hiker use only.

Description: Ruddy Hill is a fairly young volcanic cinder cone and for that reason, rises vertically very abruptly. The path gains 650 feet in seven tenths of a mile and is not recommended for the out-of-shape or very young children.

That being said, the views this butte commands from its summit are spectacular. To the south one had unmatched panoramas of Mt. Jefferson, Pyramid Butte, Spinning Lake, and the North Fork of the Breitenbush River. To the east one can see most of the Warm Springs Reservation. Olallie and Monon Lakes are visible to the northeast. Once you reach the summit, be sure to walk around its entire circumference for the best perspective of the surrounding terrain. There is also an old wooden telephone box on the summit.

Trail Mileage Log:

- 0.0** Trail leaves the PCT in a southwesterly direction in an open area but almost immediately enters the timber and begins a steep ascent.
- 0.20** Path winds around the north side of the butte and continues climbing steeply in a northwesterly direction.
- 0.60** Trail continues around to a more western angle and ascends even more steeply.
- 0.80** Trail breaks through tree line near the summit (elev. 5,943 ft.) Path levels out for a short distance and ends at the south side of the summit.