

FIRE

The Rock Lakes Area has escaped major fire damage in recent history but the scars of repeated burns in the surrounding Indian Ridge country attest to the constant danger of fire.

PREVENT FOREST FIRES FEEL THE ASHES BE SURE YOUR FIRE IS DEAD OUT

Except for a few trails and lakeside camps, the area has remained virtually unchanged since before the coming of man. Only July and August are usually free of snow. BE PREPARED. Come equipped to face the extremes of weather encountered in high mountain country. Bring your own shelter and prepare to forage for wood.

Come and enjoy the area. Camp and hike and fish. Enjoy the solitude of nature. Trail No. 512 to Serene Lake has been closed to motor vehicles to preserve this tranquil setting.

Please protect the fragile plant communities in Cache Meadows. Trampling by people and horses will wear out the meadows and destroy the plants. To protect them, walk in the timber and keep horses out.

PLEASE PACK OUT YOUR LITTER

Maintenance of our beautiful backcountry is difficult and expensive. Please help us provide an enjoyable recreation experience for those that follow you. Burn your garbage and pack out what won't burn (cans, plastic, etc.).

Have a safe, enjoyable trip on the Mt. Hood National Forest.

For further information, call the District Ranger at Estacada, Oregon.

Phone 630-3277

GPO 986-620

ROCK LAKES BASIN



Mt Hood National Forest

This beautiful, high mountain backcountry has several outstanding lakes, hiking trails, and scenic vistas. Because of its isolated location in the remote headwaters of Roaring River, few have ventured into the area. It offers real solitude in a world that seems to be rushing by us at an everquickening pace.

LAKES

Major lakes in the area include:

NAME	AREA (acres)	DEPTH (feet)
Upper Rock	3	22
Middle Rock	15	34
Lower Rock	8	13
Serene Lake	20	46
Cripple Cr.	15	4

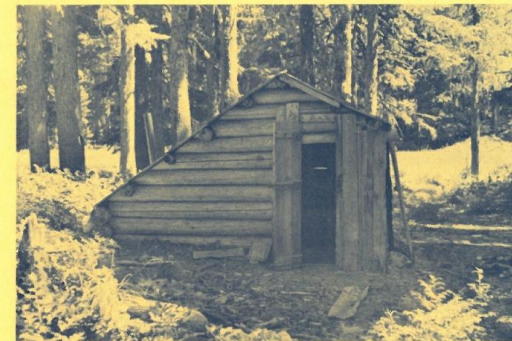
All of these have been stocked with trout by the Oregon State Game Commission. Fishing is usually good.

FLORA

The most spectacular trees are the tall, slender alpine fir found along the abandoned road southwest of Frazier Turnaround. Since spring comes late, rhododendrons can be found blooming most of June, even into July. The latter part of August and September is the time for the famed Indian Ridge huckleberry.



Camping at Serene Lake



Cabin at Cache Meadows

ACCESS

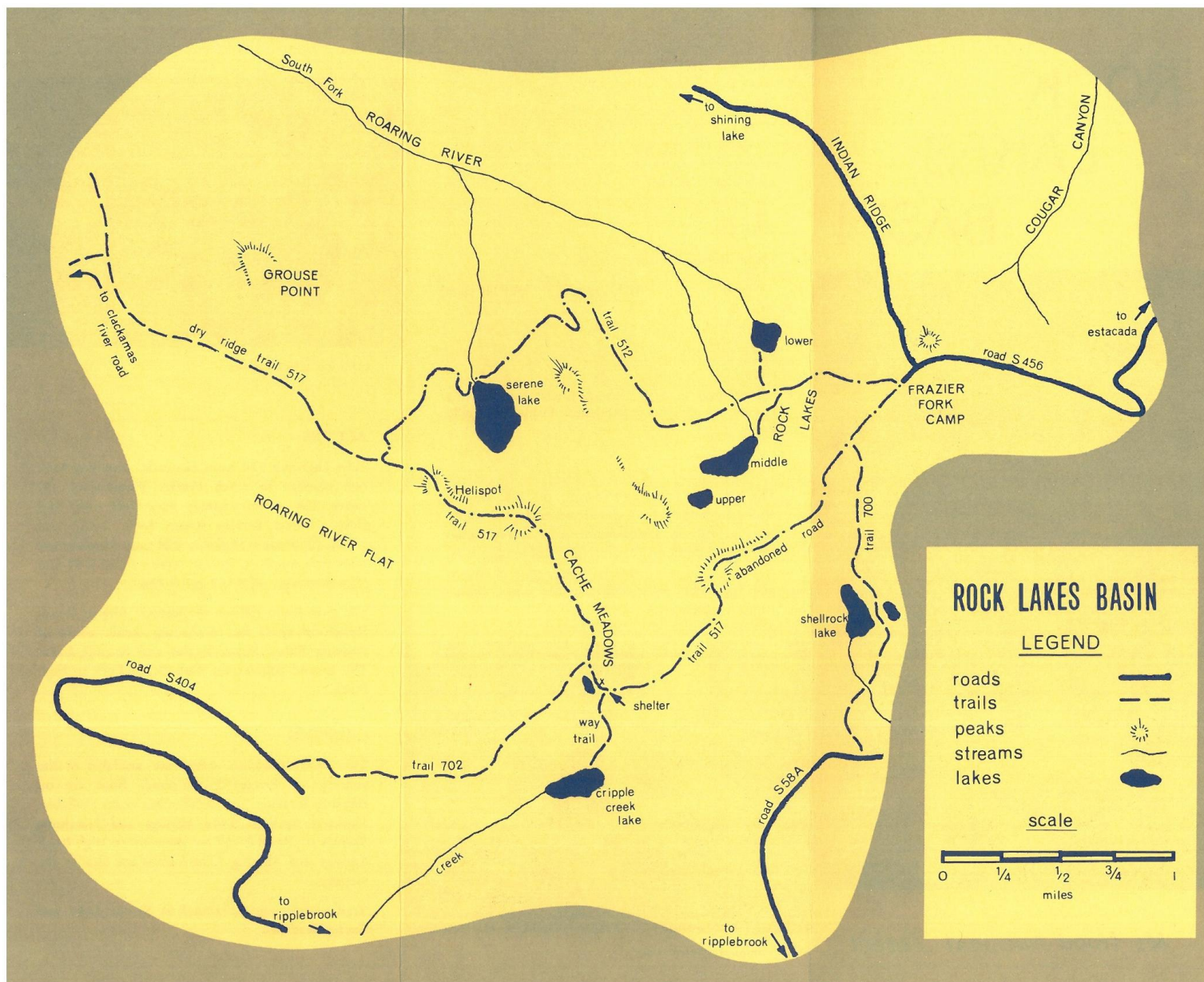
Take Highway 224 from Estacada, then you have two choices to reach Frazier Turnaround. (1) Leave 224 at Promontory Park (left turn) and follow Forest Service Roads S-45, S-457 and S-456. (2) Follow Highway 224 past Ripplebrook then turn north on Forest Service Road S-57 and S-58 then west on S-457 and S-456.

The first route follows the historic Abbott Road. Rough in spots but rewarding scenic views of Roaring River, Signal Buttes and Shining Lake. The second follows the Oak Grove Fork to High Rock.

CAMPING

Two small roadside camps are available in the vicinity of Frazier Turnaround. Both are on ridgetop locations and neither has water available. Lookout Springs, Twin Springs and Hambone Springs on Road S-457 are alternatives. High Rock Springs and Shining Lake camps are also in the vicinity.

Trail camps can be found at Serene Lake and Cache Meadows.



Here is a suggested 7.7 mile loop trip:

MILES

- 0.0 Frazier Fork Camp. Trail No. 512 west to Serene Lake. The trail descends into a stand of oldgrowth timber.
- 0.7 Trail to SW leads to Middle Rock Lake (1/4 mile).
- 0.8 Trail north to Lower Rock Lake. Well stocked with trout.
- 1.7 Trail dips below rock slide and back to Serene Lake.
- 2.8 Outlet to Serene Lake. The camp is on the west shore. Good fishing.
- 3.0 Trail SW from Serene Lake climbs to the ridge.
- 3.9 Intersection with trail No. 517. Superb views of Roaring River Canyon NW on Dry Ridge Trail No. 517 to Grouse Point. Otherwise, follow Trail No. 517 east to Cache Meadows.
- 4.2 Spectacular views of lakes below.
- 4.6 Helispot No. 211 provides access for fire protection.
- 5.0 First of a series of natural meadows. Follow the meadow edge. Be careful of the fragile plants and wild flowers.
- 5.7 Old log shelter. Follow trail carefully to the NE (uphill). Several way trails lead down (So.) to Cripple Creek Lake. Main trail No. 517 climbs NE through the dense forest.
- 6.7 Abandoned fire access road. Travel NE. An easy hike back to your car through the magnificent alpine fir.
- 7.7 At Frazier Fork again.