

Welcome Lakes Trail #554



Recreation Opportunity Guide

Distance..... 4.1 miles (one way)
Elevation..... 2640-5520 feet
Snow Free June to October



Trail Highlights: This trail is in the Bull of the Woods Wilderness. This is a major east-west route connecting the summit of Bull of the Woods with the Elk Lake Creek Trail #559 to the east. The trail traverses the full range of terrain from deep old growth to open rocky ridges and intersects many of the other trails in this area.

Trail Description: This trail begins at Bull of the Woods Trail #550 and ends at Elk Lake Creek Trail #559. Beginning from the junction with Bull of the Woods Trail #550 and Mother Lode Trail #558 (5,200'), the trail heads southeast and travels 0.2 mile to the junction with Schreiner Peak Trail #555 (5,240'). From the junction the trail follows the ridge downhill 1 mile to the beginning of a series of switchbacks overlooking Welcome Lake Basin (4,800'). The trail drops down the switchbacks 0.5 mile to Upper Welcome Lake and the junction with West Lake Way Trail #556 (4,440'). There is a campsite near this junction towards the lake. The trail heads east 0.2 mile to a short spur trail leading north to Lower Welcome Lake. From the junction, continue heading east 0.7 mile on level terrain with nice views to the beginning of a second steep descent (3,960'). There are great views of the Welcome Lakes Basin from here. The trail heads down a series of steep switchbacks into thick old growth forest for 1.6 miles to the trail's end at the junction with Elk Lake Creek Trail #559 (2,640') (approximately 2.1 miles from #559's northern trailhead at Forest Road 6380).

Regulations & Leave No Trace Information:

- Group size is limited to 12. Stock are counted in the group size. For example, 3 people riding their own horse plus a spare horse in the group for packing would make a group of 7.

Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare: Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces: Use established trails and campsites.
- Dispose of Waste Properly: Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Leave What You Find: Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Minimize Campfire Impacts: Use established fire rings & keep fires small.
- Respect Wildlife: Control pets at all times.
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors: Avoid loud voices and noises.

For information on **Leave No Trace**, go to www.LNT.org or call 1-800-332-4100

For current trail conditions and more recreation information go to:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mthood>

Map and driving directions on next page

Mt. Hood National Forest
16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055
503-668-1700

Clackamas River Ranger District
595 NW Industrial Way
Estacada, Oregon 97023
503-630-6861

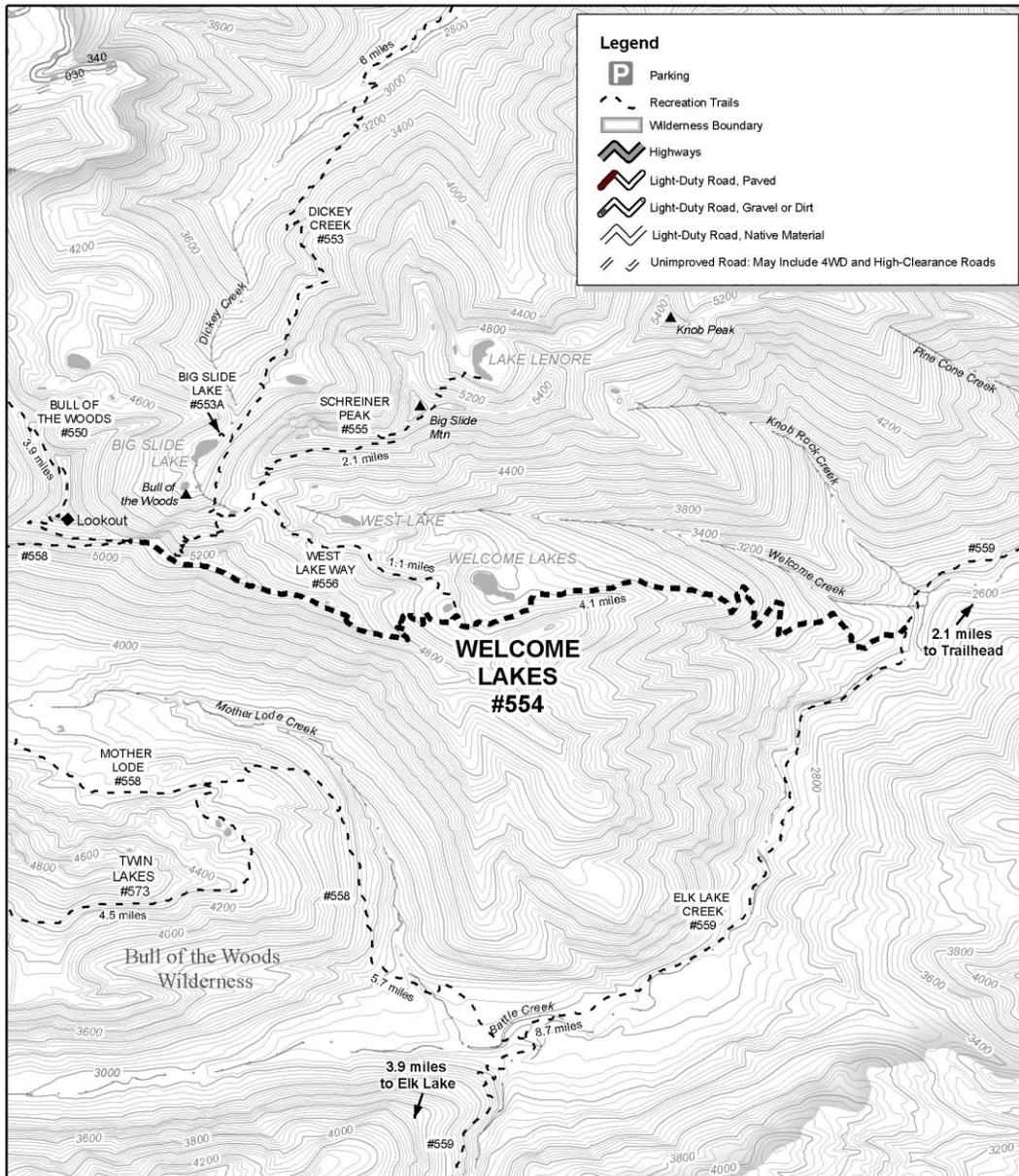
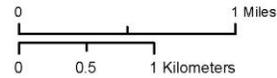
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Directions to Trailhead: Via Bull of the Woods Trail #550, from Portland travel east on US Hwy 26 to Sandy. Turn right (southwest) on OR Hwy 211 and travel 6.1 miles to OR Hwy 224. Turn left (southeast) on OR Hwy 224 and travel south on Hwy 224 for 30.6 miles to Clackamas River Hwy (Forest Road 46) (approximately at milepost 50). Take the right fork onto Clackamas River Hwy and travel 3.7 miles to Collowash Road (Forest Road 63). Travel 5.7 miles on Forest Road 63 and turn right onto Forest Road 6340. Travel 7.8 miles on Forest Road 6340 and you will come to a fork in the road (6340 and 6341). Take the left fork onto 6340 and follow it for approximately 1.5 miles to the trailhead parking area at the end of the road. Follow Bull of the Woods Trail #550 3.9 miles to Welcome Lakes Trail #554.

554 Welcome Lakes
4.1 miles

6.6 km



Recommended maps: Clackamas Ranger District

