



United States Department of Agriculture

Willamette National Forest Sweet Home Ranger District TRAIL GUIDE



Forest
Service

Willamette
National Forest

The Sweet Home Ranger District is home to over 500 plant species. Wildflowers are best viewed during the summer months along the Iron Mountain, Cone Peak, and Browder Ridge trails.



The old Cascades Mountain Range is often snow-free and popping with wildflowers while snow continues to blanket the newer high Cascades.

- Upper Left: Tiger lily
- Upper Right: Shelf fungus (Chicken of the Woods)
- Left: Prairie violet

Welcome to the Sweet Home Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest

One of the great pleasures of getting outdoors is stepping away from our busy lives and into the solitude and beauty of the mountains and forest.

Accessing trails is one of the most popular recreation activities in the Northwest. Sweet Home Ranger District offers many miles of trails — from easily accessible trails to more challenging mountain trails.

To fully enjoy your next outing, consider these helpful reminders:

- Weather conditions can change quickly. Be prepared for bad weather by bringing the proper clothing and equipment, even if you're planning a short hike.
- Outdoor adventures with a pet can be fun. Minimize impacts to fragile areas, wildlife, and other visitors by keeping your pet on a leash. This is particularly important on trails open to horses and mountain bikes.
- Stream water may contain illness-causing bacteria. Bring your own water, filter, or boil stream water for at least 10 minutes before drinking it.
- Check for fire use restrictions and closures before heading out.
- Remember that safety is the responsibility of the individual. Remote locations and extreme weather may delay emergency response and cellphone reception is very limited in many areas. If you do need emergency help, dial 911. Depending upon your location you may be able to get cell service by moving to a different location, especially a high point.

For more information contact the Sweet Home Ranger District office, located at: 4431 Highway 20, Sweet Home, OR 97386;
Phone (541) 367-5168.

BE A RESPECTFUL TRAIL USER

Help preserve your national forest resources and the quality of your outdoor experience by following these helpful tips:

STAY ON THE TRAIL

- Staying on the trail helps minimize impacts to plants, soil, rivers, and wildlife. When stopping for breaks, try to stay on resilient surfaces, such as the trail itself, rocky areas or logs.
- Use existing switchbacks. They help preserve the trail tread and protect the surrounding area. They also make it easier to hike steep grades, providing a safer, more enjoyable hike. Cutting through switchbacks can destroy vegetation, cause erosion, and increase trail maintenance costs.

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Pick-up and pack-out all litter that you or your group bring into the forest and go the extra mile by picking up litter that you find along the way. Do not bury garbage.
- Human waste and toilet paper should be deposited off the trail and buried at least 6 inches deep and 200 feet from waterways.

BE COURTEOUS TO OTHER USERS:

SAY "HI" - BE NICE - SMILE

- Many trails on the Willamette National Forest are open to more than one type of user. Be aware of who the trail users are before you begin hiking or riding and watch out for each other.
- Share the trail, or select trails that are open only to the type of use you want to experience.
- Try to camp away from trails and other visitors. Avoid loud conversations and noises.

BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

- Plan ahead and be prepared. A cell phone or GPS is not a substitute for a topographic map and accurate compass.
- Carry the 10 essentials; extra clothing, food, sunglasses, knife, firestarter/matches, first aid kit, flashlight, map, compass and water.
- Leave a trip itinerary with friends or family and remember to sign in at the trail register.

CAMP IN ESTABLISHED SITES

- Whenever possible, use existing campsites. This will help minimize impacts to natural areas. Camp in well-drained locations.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Check with the ranger station and know before you go whether campfires are allowed in the area you are visiting. Fire restrictions may be in place depending on current conditions.
- If campfires are allowed, Keep your campfire small and away from flammable material. Use a designated campfire ring when available. Keep water and shovel nearby and completely extinguish your campfire by drowning your fire with water and stirring with a shovel. It is hazardous and illegal to leave a campfire unattended.
- Firewood can be scarce, even in areas where fires are permitted. Use only dead or down wood. Do not cut down snags - they provide important habitat for birds and small mammals.

PROTECT WATER QUALITY

- Wash dishes, bathe, and brush your teeth using water in a pot or basin. Carry it 200 feet away from water sources before disposing of it. Bury dirty water and toothpaste in a hole 6 inches deep so that it can biodegrade.

KNOW THE REGULATIONS

- Areas operate under different regulations. It's important to know which regulations apply to the area where you're recreating. If you are not sure, call the Ranger Station.
- Designated wilderness areas within national forest lands have a different set of regulations designed to protect wilderness values. Wilderness regulations are posted at trailheads. Bikes and other mechanized or motorized equipment are not allowed in wilderness areas. Visit www.fs.usda.gov/willamette for more information on area regulations.

PROVIDE FEEDBACK FOR OTHER HIKERS

- Report trail conditions to the District office by calling (541) 367-5168 or leaving notes on the trail register.

TRAIL USER INFORMATION

MOTORIZED USER INFORMATION

Some Forest Service trails are open to OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) such as motorcycles and ATVs. Riders should obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to know where you can legally ride on Forest Service lands. You must display an ATV/OHV operating permit if you are operating your ATV on public land and all operators must hold a valid ATV Safety Education Card.

MOUNTAIN BIKE INFORMATION

Because bikers travel at faster speeds than other trail users, it's important for cyclists to be courteous and responsible riders. In order to have the safest biking experience with the least impacts to other trail users and resources, please follow these guidelines:

- Yield the right-of-way to all other recreationists.
- Slow down and use caution when approaching or overtaking another trail user.
- Make your presence known when approaching another trail user by saying "hello."
- Maintain control at all times. Approach turns in anticipation of someone being around the bend.
- Stay on designated trails. Bikes are not allowed in wilderness areas.
- Report trail conditions to the District office.
- Stop and move off the trail on the downhill side when passing horseback riders. Talk as they pass - horses may otherwise think you are a predator. Spooking horses can be unpredictable and dangerous.

STOCK USERS

Help minimize impacts by following these guidelines:

- Certified weed free products are required on all Forest Service lands. Commercially processed feed (pellets and steamed, rolled grains) are a good alternative.

- Don't cut through switchbacks.
- If it is safe to do so, when mountain bikes approach traveling up hill, pull off to the side of the trail. Even though horses have the right-of-way, be considerate when possible.
- Keep stock at least 200 feet from lakes, except when watering animals or traveling on established trails.
- Use a highline to hitch stock. Set it up away from campsites, trails, and streams. Tying stock to trees can cause damage to trees and the plants and soil around them.
- When grazing stock, use hobbles or a lightweight, portable electric fence systems.
- When breaking camp, scatter the manure and try to leave the site in as good or better shape than you found it.
- Use lightweight equipment and pack lightly.

WILDERNESS REGULATIONS

The following regulations apply to the Menagerie and Middle Santiam Wilderness areas (violations can result in fines).

- Entering wilderness areas without a permit between Memorial Day weekend and October 31st is prohibited. Permits are free and available at trailheads and may be checked by wilderness rangers.
- Select campsites at least 100 feet from lakes and streams. Look for campsites that are screened by vegetation. Screened sites provide privacy and preserve the natural appearance of the area. Use existing sites whenever possible to minimize your impacts.
- Pack and saddle stock are to be kept at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Do not tie stock directly to trees. The use of highlines, hobbles, and moveable pickets helps prevent damage to vegetation.
- Use processed feed or certified weed free products. Certified weed free products are required to reduce the sources of non-native plants entering national forest lands. Processed feed includes pelletized feeds and irradiated grains in their original container.
- Caching or storing supplies or equipment for more than 48 hours is not allowed.

- Group size is limit to 12. Any combination of persons and pack or saddle stock exceeding 12 is prohibited. Large groups divided into separate parties must maintain a minimum separation distance of 1 mile (from point to point on a map).
- Motorized vehicles and equipment are prohibited. The use of motors in wilderness areas detracts from the primitive experience. Wagons, carts, and other wheeled vehicles are prohibited. Mobility-impaired individuals whose means of locomotion is by wheelchair are exempt from this order.
- Bicycles, hang gliders, and other non-primitive modes of transportation are prohibited. Motorized rock drills are also prohibited.
- Pack out all trash and garbage. Proper disposal of human waste is important to avoid pollution of water sources. Bury human waste least 200 feet (about 70 adult steps) from water, trails and camp. Toilet paper should either be thoroughly buried 6 inches deep or placed in plastic bags and packed out.
- Cutting or defacing standing trees (dead or alive) is not permitted. Firewood is often hard to find, especially in the higher elevations. Camp stoves are recommended.
- Don't build structures. Rock walls, cairns, tables, and chairs detract from the natural beauty of wilderness.
- Protect water quality. Soaps and detergents, even when they are biodegradable, can affect the water quality of lakes and streams, so minimize use. Locate your wash site at least 200 feet away from water sources
- Landing aircraft, or dropping or picking up any material or persons by means of aircraft is prohibited.
- Do not mark wilderness travel routes with flagging, tape, tree markings, or in any other way. This is prohibited in wilderness areas and detracts from the natural beauty.

TRAIL GUIDE SYMBOLS

Trails are built to provide access for different user groups to various parts of the District. Wherever possible, trails are constructed and maintained in a manner that protects forest resources.

Trails are built to different standards depending on projected use. Wilderness trails, for example, are designed for hikers and horses. Trails outside these areas can include use by a broad spectrum of users.

DIFFICULTY OF EACH TRAIL IS DESCRIBED BELOW:

Easy: Trail is fairly level, may have short up and down hill sections. Trail surface may be gravel or dirt.

Moderate: Trail can be moderately steep with long up and down hill sections. Trail surface may be uneven gravel or dirt.

Difficult: Trail can be steep and have lots of elevation gain or loss with numerous long hilly sections. Trail surfaces can be uneven and rocky.

THE FOLLOWING SYMBOLS ARE USED THROUGHOUT THIS GUIDE TO IDENTIFY THE TYPES OF USES THAT CAN BE ENJOYED ON LISTED TRAILS.



Hikers Permitted on Trail



Horses Permitted on Trail



Bicycles Permitted on Trail



Barrier-free Trail



Trail within Wilderness



Interpretive Trail



Watchable Wildlife



Wildflowers



Fishing



Scenic View/Vista Point

The season or seasons in which a trail can be used depends on its elevation and exposure. In a typical year, you can expect that trails above 4,500 feet will be covered by snow around mid to late October. Many high elevation trails are generally free of snow by July. Check with the Sweet Home Ranger District for up-to-date information before planning your trip.

TRAIL GUIDE NOTES

The locator map in this guide is for general orientation only. A topographical map should be used for more detailed information. A variety of maps are available at Willamette National Forest offices.

All trail distances listed are one-way, unless otherwise noted.

Driving distances to trailheads are measured from the Sweet Home Ranger Station.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For maps, guidebooks, and the latest information on local weather, roads, trails and recreation facilities, please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/willamette. You can also find and follow us on social media. We're on Facebook at www.facebook.com/willamettenf and Twitter at www.twitter.com/willametteNF.

You may also call, write or visit the office nearest to the area you plan to visit.

Willamette National Forest Supervisor's Office

3106 Pierce Parkway Suite D
Springfield, OR 97477
541-225-6300

Sweet Home Ranger District

4431 Highway 20
Sweet Home, OR 97386
541-367-5168

McKenzie River Ranger District

57600 McKenzie Highway
McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413
541-822-3381

Detroit Ranger District

44125 North Santiam Highway SE
Detroit, OR 97342
503-854-3366

Middle Fork Ranger District

46375 Highway 58
Westfir, OR 97492
541-782-2283

LOWER SANTIAM AREA

This group of lower elevation trails is located in the South Santiam drainage of the Sweet Home Ranger District. These trails can usually be accessed year round.

TROUT CREEK TRAIL #3405 (MENAGERIE WILDERNESS)



Map Location: ①

Length: 2.8 miles to junction with Rooster Rock Trail

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Topographical map: Upper Soda

Elevation: 1,240-2,840 feet

This enjoyable, smoothly graded trail takes you through a 100-year-old, fire generated forest. The rocky top of Rooster Rock comes into view as you ascend. One half mile from the top, the trail joins Rooster Rock Trail, and continues to the base of Rooster Rock.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for about 19 miles. Trailhead is on the left, across the highway from and east of the entrance to Trout Creek Campground.

WALTON RANCH INTERPRETIVE TRAIL #4170



Map Location: ①

Length: 0.25 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Upper Soda

Elevation: 1,300-1,400 feet

If you're looking for a panoramic view of the lower canyon, check out this trail. The trail crosses Trout Creek and ends at two viewing platforms. The first platform provides a view of the Walton Ranch site and wildlife habitat area. The second platform provides a better view of the west end of the meadow, where elk concentrate during the winter months. The trail and viewing platforms are designed to be wheelchair accessible, with a fine graveled surface on the parking lot and trail.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for about 19 miles to the Trout Creek trailhead. Walton Ranch Trail begins next to Trout Creek Trail.

YUKWAH NATURE TRAIL #3421



Map Location: 1

Length: 0.35 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Upper Soda

Elevation: 1,400 feet

Nestled along the South Santiam River, within Yukwah Campground, this wheelchair-accessible trail provides opportunities to interact with and learn about riparian ecology and Native American life along the river. The trail is surfaced with gravel and leads to a viewing platform.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 20 miles to Yukwah Campground. Parking is provided in the campground at former campsite #9, during open season May-October.

ROOSTER ROCK TRAIL #3399 (MENAGERIE WILDERNESS)



Map Location: 2

Length: 2.1 miles

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Topographical map: Upper Soda

Elevation: 1,360–3,567 feet

This trail climbs slowly for 0.9 miles, then rises steeply to where it joins with Trout Creek Trail at 1.58 miles. Rooster Rock is an enormous pillar of andesite and basalt. It's a



Rooster Rock in the Menagerie Wilderness

popular destination for rock climbers. From January 15 to July 31, the area north and west of Rooster Rock is closed to protect sensitive wildlife species. Please do not leave any trail markings behind in the wilderness. If you see flagging, please report it or remove it.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 21 miles and park in the area just east of the state highway cinder stockpile. The trailhead is located on the north side of the highway approximately 50 yards east of the entrance to Fernview Campground.

HOUSE ROCK TRAIL #3406



Map Location: 4

Length: 0.7 mile loop

Difficulty: Easy

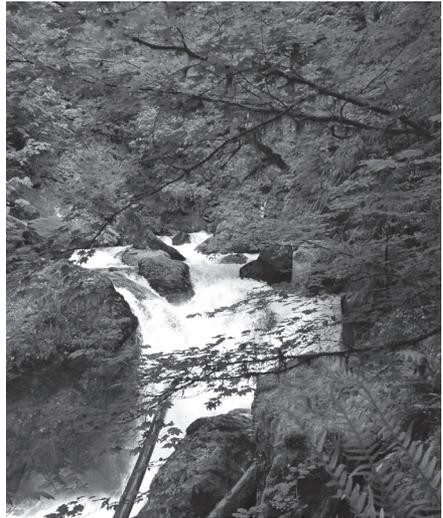
Topographical map: Harter Mountain

Elevation: 1,680–2,000 feet

The routines of daily life seem to melt away as you walk through this peaceful old-growth Douglas fir and hemlock forest. Part of the trail follows the Santiam Wagon Road, a historic travel route through the Cascades.

House Rock Falls, a 40 foot waterfall located along the trail, is a spectacular sight in the spring. You'll also pass a huge overhanging boulder that once sheltered pioneers from winter storms.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 25.3 miles, then turn right on Forest Road 2044 (Latiwi Creek). Continue 0.2 miles and turn right at the entrance to House Rock Campground. Follow the road down the hill and park in the area just before the bridge over Sheep Creek. The trailhead will be on the right.



House Rock Falls

SANTIAM WAGON ROAD TRAIL SYSTEM

A variety of settings can be experienced on the Santiam Wagon Road depending on the segment selected for travel. This trail/road is developed for multiple users, including hikers, horse riders, mountain bikers, and some sections are open to drivers of vintage vehicles or wagons (by permit only).

SANTIAM WAGON ROAD TRAIL #3413

Total Length: 20.5 miles

Difficulty: Easy to difficult (varies by segment)

Topographical map: Upper Soda/Harter Mountain/Echo Mountain

Elevation: 1,500–4,200 feet

Because the Santiam Wagon Road parallels and crosses Highway 20, there are many access opportunities depending on your ability and activity. Besides the official trailheads listed below, there are other access points such as: 2000-245 (Burnside Road) located 32 miles east of Sweet Home off Highway 20 (turn right and travel on spur road 245 for 1.5 miles); and Lost Prairie Campground located 38 miles east of Sweet Home off Highway 20. From Mountain House to Fish Lake the trail gains 3,400 feet and loses 1,600 feet in elevation across its length.

MOUNTAIN HOUSE TO LATIWI CREEK ROAD #3413



Map Location: **3**

Length: 3.3 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Elevation: 1,500–1,900 feet

Probably the most intact piece of the original wagon road, this segment will provide you with a true sense of what early travel was like. The road parallels the South Santiam River and winds through lush old-growth forests crossing several tributaries along the way. Look for the old mill pond now grown-in with red alder.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station travel east on Highway 20 for 23.4 miles. Trailhead parking is located just east of Soda Fork Creek, look for the Santiam Wagon Road sign. Look for the trailhead tucked into the trees on the south side of Highway 20 just east of Forest Road 2041.

LATIWI CREEK ROAD TO SEVENMILE HORSE CAMP TRAILHEAD CONNECTOR #3143



Map Location: 

Length: 3.3 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Elevation: 1,900-2,900 feet

Connecting segments of the Santiam Wagon Road requires traveling north 0.3 miles on Latiwi Creek Road (2044) across the South Santiam River. Travel begins on an old gravel road that turns into a trail. A mixture of dense second-growth and patches of old-growth forest shrouds you while you traverse the side slope of Sevenmile Hill. The eastern half of the trail follows the original route of the Santiam Wagon Road. This segment was immortalized in stories about the first transcontinental auto race in 1905, when trees were attached to vehicles to slow their descent on Sevenmile Hill. The western half of the trail that contours the hillside is new. The connection from Seven Mile Horse Camp to the Santiam Wagon Road is 0.8 miles on Forest Road 024.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 24 miles, then turn right on Forest Road 2044 (Latiwi Creek road). Drive 1.3 miles to a small turnout on the left just before the South Santiam River. Look for the Santiam Wagon Road sign and green gate.

SEVENMILE HORSE CAMP TRAILHEAD TO TOMBSTONE PASS #3143

   Map Location: 

Length: 4.5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate - Difficult

Elevation: 2,900-4,400 feet

This trail along former segments of the Santiam Wagon Road and several connecting road segments mixes the present with the past. Young conifer forests dominate the setting as the trail ascends to Tombstone Pass. You'll be rewarded with occasional views of Iron Mountain and Jump off Joe Mountain. Mountain bikers may be especially attracted to this segment as other logging roads shoot off the Santiam Wagon Road toward the north and south. The most challenging part of this segment is just west of Tombstone Pass where the trail climbs steeply along several switchbacks to the Tombstone parking area.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east for 30 miles, then turn right on Forest Road 024 towards Sevenmile Camp after milepost 59. The trailhead is at the end of the road (look for signboards next to a gate). A restroom is located in the horse camp.

TOMBSTONE PASS TO HACKLEMAN CREEK ROAD #3143

    Map Location: 

Length: 6.5 miles

Difficulty: Easy - Moderate

Elevation: 4,400-3,300 feet

This developed route uses Forest Roads 060 and 061, which tie into sections of the original Santiam Wagon Road east of Lost Prairie Campground. The trail crosses Highway 20 twice as it passes Lost Prairie Campground. It offers the most manageable terrain for vintage vehicles and wagons. You'll experience terrific views of Three Fingered Jack and the Old Cascades to the north along the way.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 34 miles to the Tombstone Pass Snow-Park. The trail is the old 060 road that leaves from the end of the parking lot. Restroom available at the parking lot.

HACKLEMAN CREEK ROAD TO FISH LAKE #3143



Length: 2.2 miles

Difficulty: Easy

Elevation: 3,300-3,100 feet

On this segment, you'll experience what it was like to travel the historic Santiam Wagon Road through mature forests in the Hackleman Creek area. Fishing in Hackleman Creek is prohibited. Users are also asked to dismount mountain bikes and horses as they travel through Fish Lake Guard Station. Fish Lake Guard Station was a major stopover for early travelers on the wagon road. It also played a dominant role in the early days of Forest Service management of the area.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 39 miles and turn right onto Forest Road 2672. Follow road signs to the trailhead on the left. The trail connects at Fish Lake Day Use Area. From Fish Lake Guard Station users must cross Highway 126 and head south to the McKenzie River Trailhead. From here, the Santiam Wagon Road continues onto the McKenzie River Ranger District. To continue your journey, please contact the McKenzie River Ranger District for more information.



Santiam Wagon Road bridge

MIDDLE SANTIAM TRAIL SYSTEM

This group of trails provides access to the Middle Santiam Wilderness. Many trails link to the Old Cascade Crest Trail System to the east.

CHIMNEY PEAK TRAIL #3382



Map Location: **17**

Length: 12.7 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Topographical map: Chimney Peak/Harter Mountain

Elevation: 2,300–4,965 feet

Starting from the trailhead on spur road 646, located off Forest Road 2041, the trail rapidly descends for 0.75 miles to the Middle Santiam River. You can enjoy exploring Shedd Camp Shelter. The trail continues across the Middle Santiam River (no bridge) and travels north through majestic old-growth forests. The river crossing is difficult to impossible for horses.



Hiker on Chimney Peak Trail

The South Pyramid Creek Trail #3403 is the better way for horses to access this area. The trail crosses

Pyramid Creek (no bridge) before ascending to the closed section

of Forest Road 2041. The trail then crosses Forest Road 2041, enters

Middle Santiam Wilderness and winds to Donaca Lake in a distance of less than 3 miles. Beyond Donaca Lake, the trail gradually gains

elevation to the base of Chimney Peak. Adventurous explorers might want to ascend the rocky peak to the place where a fire lookout once

stood. Mountain bikes are allowed in the non-wilderness section of

the trail. To make a loop without going in the wilderness, take Forest Roads 2041 and 508 to connect to the Gordon Peak Trail #3387.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 23.3 miles, then turn left on Forest Road 2041 (Soda Fork). Stay on 2041 for 12 miles to spur road 646 and turn right. The trailhead is at the end of the spur road.

You may also reach a mid-point in the trail by continuing down 2041 for an additional 3 miles to the road closure. Travel by foot 2 miles further along 2041 to the original trailhead. This route shortens the total hike by approximately 3 miles and bypasses the need to wade through the Middle Santiam River but the route is not routinely maintained.

SWAMP PEAK TRAIL #3401



Map Location: 19

Length: 6.1 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Chimney Peak

Elevation: 3,500–4,800 feet

At this trailhead you have two options. By heading west you'll skirt the talus slopes of Knob Rock before entering the Middle Santiam Wilderness. This 3.2 mile route exposes you to a rich old-growth forest community before connecting with Chimney Peak Trail. By traveling east you scramble 2.2 miles up and over Swamp Peak before intersecting Gordan Peak Trail. Mountain bikes are not allowed in the wilderness area.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 3.5 miles and turn left on Forest Road 11 (Quartzville Road.) Travel approximately 40 miles up Quartzville Road to the east end of Forest Road 1152 and turn right. Travel 5 miles on 1152 to spur road 640 and turn left. Continue on Forest Road 640 for 0.4 miles to trailhead on the right.

GORDAN PEAK TRAIL #3387



Map Location: 20

Length: 6.1 miles

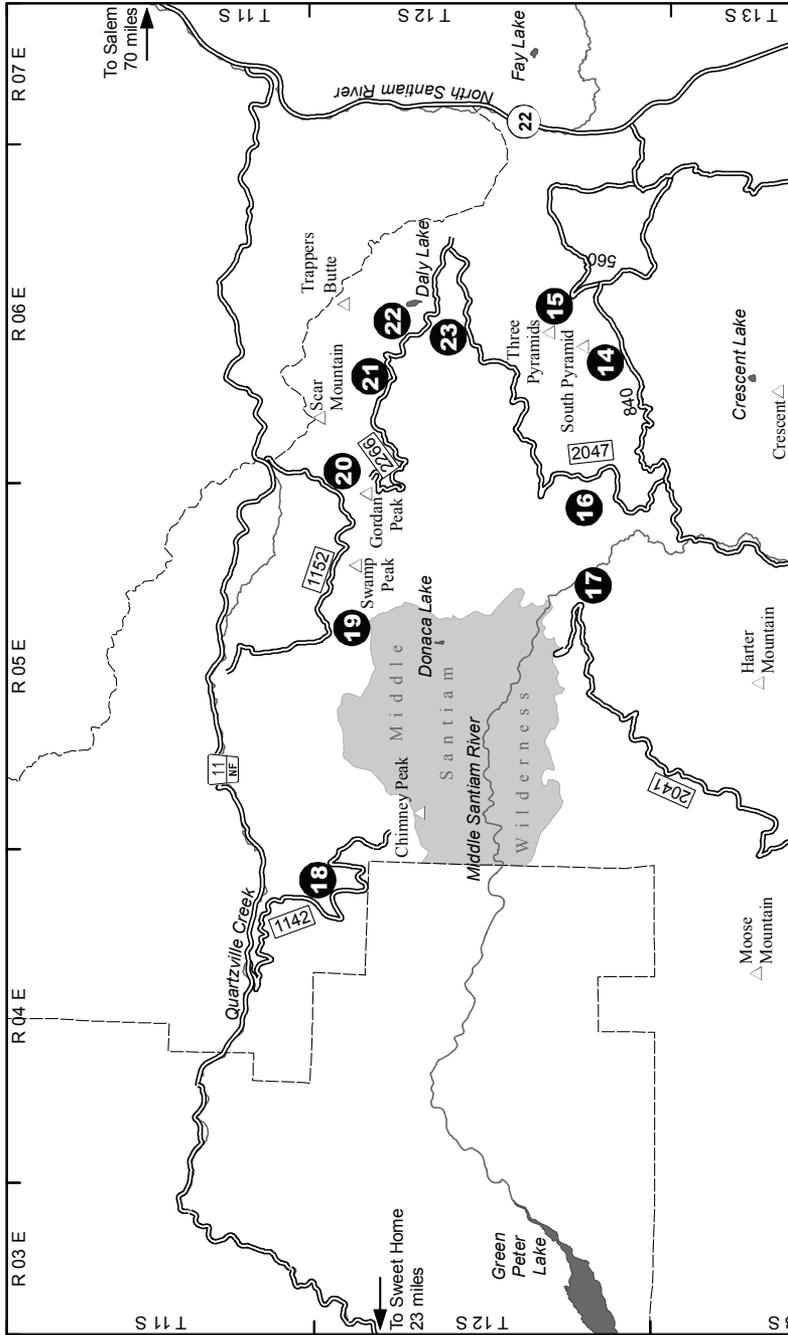
Difficulty: Moderate

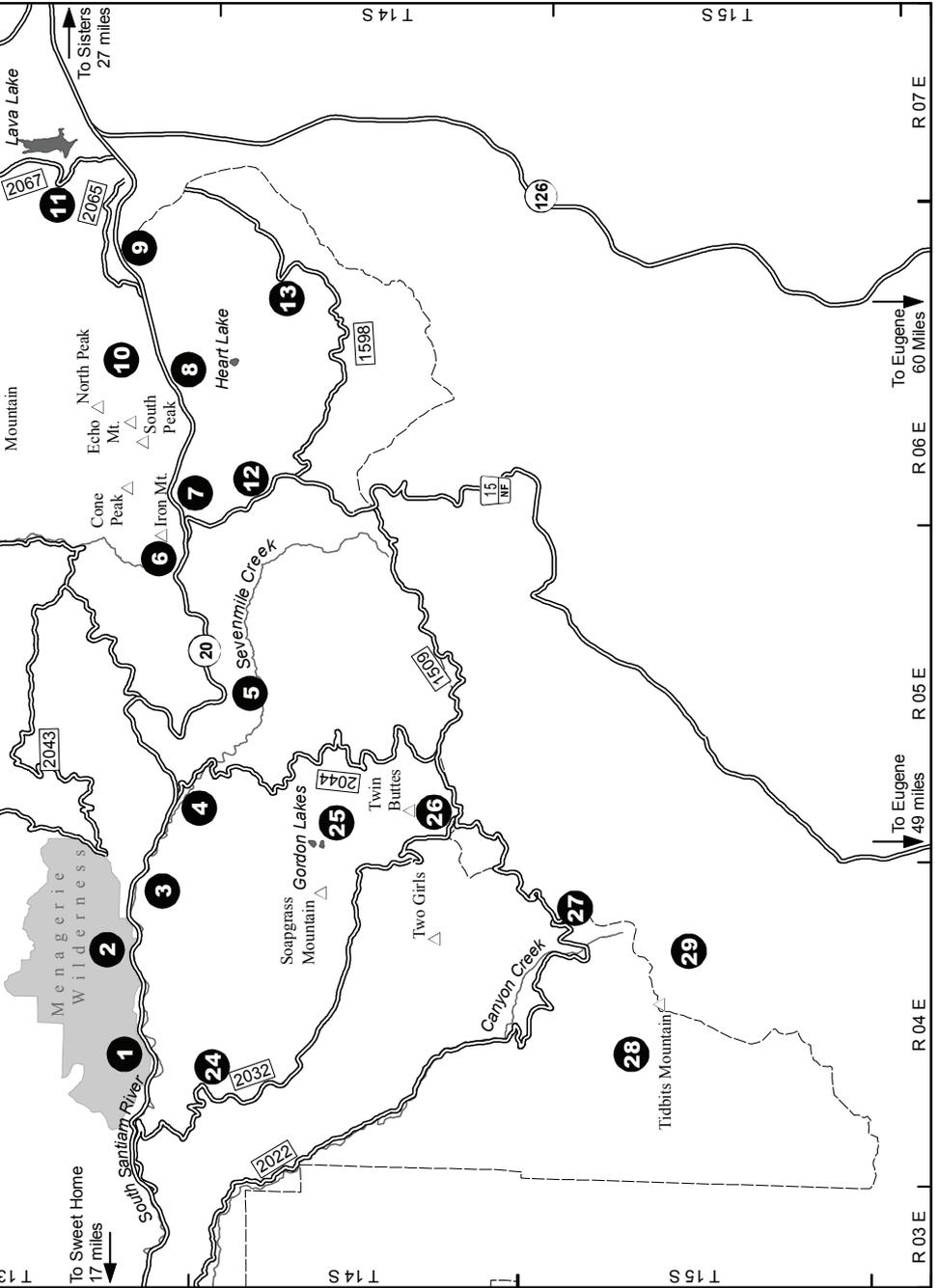
Topographical map: Chimney Peak/Coffin Mountain

Elevation: 3,000–4,300 feet

This hike begins on a ridgeline with periodic views of Mount Jefferson and Three Fingered Jack. It then gradually descends

SWEET HOME RANGER DISTRICT LOCATOR MAP





through mature and old-growth forests. The trail eventually joins Chimney Peak Trail near the Middle Santiam Wilderness boundary. Mountain bikes are not allowed in the wilderness area but can take the Forest Road 580 connector to Forest Road 2041 to bypass the wilderness area and loop to the Chimney Peak Trail/Pyramids Trail.

From the trailhead, you can also head northeast for approximately 3.1 miles to the top of Scar Mountain for wonderful views along Scar Ridge. This route provides a link to the Old Cascade Crest Trail System.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel Highway 20 for 3.5 miles to Forest Road 11 (Quartzville Road) and turn left. Travel approximately 40 miles to the east end of Forest Road 1152 and take a right. The trailhead is located 1.4 miles down the road on the left. Parking is on the right.

MCQUADE CREEK TRAIL #3397



Map Location: 18

Length: 5.2 miles

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Topographical map: Quartzville/Chimney Peak

Elevation: 2,640–4,320 feet

Your hike begins in dense, young forests. After crossing two stream channels (no bridges), you enter a mature, old-growth forest for a wonderful mid-slope hike. Remnants of the collapsed McQuade Creek Shelter (a primitive three-sided structure) can be seen shortly before the trail connects with Chimney Peak Trail at the wilderness boundary. Mountain bikes are not allowed in the wilderness area. Primitive trail conditions make this route unsafe for most horseback riders.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 about 3.5 miles and turn left on Forest Road 11 (Quartzville Road). Travel 32 miles to Forest Road 1142 and turn right. Follow 1142 for 4 miles to the trailhead. The access road to the trailhead is rough, horse trailers are not recommended.

TOMBSTONE PASS AREA

These trails highlight the special geology and plant communities of the Old Cascades and access major peaks and ridges around the Tombstone Pass area.

IRON MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3389



Map Location: **6**

Length: 1.7 miles

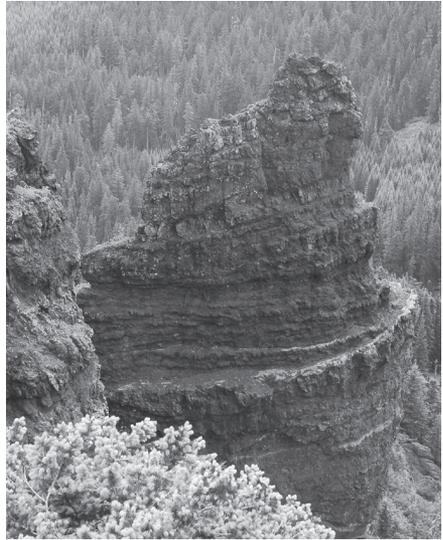
Difficulty: Difficult

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 4,700–5,455 feet

Set aside for its botanical features, Iron Mountain provides habitat for more than 300 species of flowering plants, which share their beauty throughout the summer season. You will pass through several meadows interspersed with alpine trees before reaching bare volcanic rock at the top of the mountain. A viewing platform provides a safe, level area to enjoy the views. An interpretive brochure is available at the trailhead.

Directions: Approximately 32 miles east of the Sweet Home Ranger Station turn left off Highway 20 onto Forest Road 035 (Civil Road) and travel 2.6 miles to the trailhead. A restroom is located at the trailhead. A longer hike with an additional 700 feet of elevation gain can be made by taking the 0.7 mile Trail #3389, which is accessed off of Forest Road 15 (Deer Creek Road) 2 miles past Forest Road 035 (Civil Road) on the right.



View of spire from top of Iron Mountain

TOMBSTONE NATURE TRAIL



Map Location: **7**

Length: 0.7 mile

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 4,160–4,241 feet

The Tombstone Pass area is named for the tombstone that marked the spot where James A. McKnight, a local valley boy, accidentally killed himself with his own rifle in 1891 (efforts are currently underway to install a replica of the tombstone). Tombstone Prairie, which was once a popular stopover for travelers on the Santiam Wagon Road, is home to a rich community of wildflowers.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 35 miles. Park in the Tombstone Pass Sno-Park located right off Highway 20. The trail leaves the back of the parking area on the left. Restrooms are available at the trailhead.

CONE PEAK TRAIL #3408



Map Location: **7**

Length: 3.5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 4,130–5,000 feet

The gentle grade of this trail leads you through the shade of the forest onto open hillsides bursting with flowers in the spring and summer. Upper portions of the trail offer extensive views of the surrounding Old Cascades. At the junction with the Iron Mountain Trail, you have the option of returning the way you came or climbing another 0.75 miles to the top of Iron Mountain.

For a loop trail, combine the 0.5 mile Santiam Wagon Road, 1.7 mile Iron Mountain, and 3.5 mile Cone Peak Trail and 0.75 mile Tombstone Nature Trail for a total of 6.45 miles.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 35 miles to Tombstone Pass. Travel 0.37 miles on the Tombstone Prairie Trail to the intersection with Cone Peak Trail on the left. Take the trail up to the highway, carefully cross the highway and head slightly upslope to continue on the trail. Restrooms are available at the trailhead.

ECHO BASIN TRAIL #3410



Map Location: 10

Length: 2 mile loop

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 4,200–4,800 feet

This trail meanders through beautiful old-growth forest and some of the largest Alaska yellow cedar trees in the area. After leaving the cedars, you enter into a natural amphitheater formed by an open wet meadow surrounded by basin headwalls. Late spring visitors will witness a colorful array of wildflowers.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 37 miles to Forest Road 055 and turn left. Travel 2.1 miles to the trailhead.

BROWDER RIDGE TRAIL #3409



Map Location: 12

Length: 3.7 miles

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Topographical map: Tamolitch Falls

Elevation: 4,160–5,200 feet

Passing through old-growth forest, alpine meadows, and mature true fir forests, this rugged hike will treat you to views of Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, and the Three Sisters. Look for the short but steep side trail leading toward Heart Lake. This unmaintained trail ends on a ridge above the lake. Anglers will need to find their own way down to the lake. The trail merges with Gate Creek Trail #3412.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 34 miles to Forest Road 15 (Deer Creek). Travel 2.5 miles to the trailhead. This trail merges with the Gate Creek Trail from the East. For the eastern approach, follow the directions for Gate Creek Trail.

GATE CREEK TRAIL #3412



Map Location: **13**

Length: 3.1 miles

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Topographical map: Tamolitch Falls

Elevation: 3,600–4,850 feet

Ancient old-growth forests, younger true fir forests, and sweeping alpine meadows will delight your senses as you travel on this trail to discover Browder Ridge. A little less strenuous than the western access, the gradual climb along shady, forested switchbacks puts you on a plateau with views of Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, and the Three Sisters. Adventurous types can follow an unmarked side trail to a ridge overlooking pristine Heart Lake (see Browder Ridge Trail description). The trail merges with Browder Ridge Trail #3409.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 39 miles to Forest Road 2672 (Hackleman Road) and turn right. Travel 1.8 miles to Forest Road 1598 and turn right. Travel 2.8 miles to the trailhead. This trail merges with the Browder Ridge Trail from the West.

HACKLEMAN OLD-GROWTH TRAIL



Map Location: 8

Length: 0.8 mile loop

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 3,500 feet

Two short loop trails take you through a classic old-growth stand of Douglas fir, western red cedar, and mountain hemlock trees, several of which are more than 500 years old, and have survived floods, fire, and wind storms. One loop winds along Hackleman Creek, home to Hackleman trout, a subspecies of cutthroat trout. The other loop is an ADA accessible trail, although wheelchair access is considered difficult due to the grade.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 37 miles. Parking and the trailhead are located on the right.



Hackleman Old-Growth Trail

OLD CASCADE CREST TRAIL SYSTEM

The Old Cascade Crest Trail System is a system of linked trails that provide access to the crest of the Old Cascades. Notable peaks of the Old Cascades include Crescent Mountain, Three Pyramids, Trappers Butte, and Scar Mountain.



Bear-grass (*Xerophyllum tenax*)

SCAR MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3402



Map Location: **20** **23**

Length: 9.1 miles

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Topographical map: Coffin Mountain

Elevation: 3,600–5,022 feet

This trail travels along the northeastern rim of the Sweet Home Ranger District, skipping over the crests of Trappers Butte and Scar Mountain. Mature forest mixed with small mountain meadows delight the senses as you head towards the ridgeline. Once there, you can experience the weathered geology of the Old Cascades, with occasional views of Mount Jefferson and Three Fingered Jack.

Directions: To access from the east, starting at Santiam Junction, travel 7.7 miles north on Highway 22 and turn left on Forest Road 2266. Continue on 2266 for 4.5 miles to an unnumbered spur on the left that leads to the trailhead.

To access from the west, travel east on Highway 20 for 4 miles and turn left on Forest Road 11 (Quartzville Road.) Continue for 39 miles to the east end of Forest Road 1152. Turn right and travel 1.4 miles to Gordon Peak trailhead on the right.

CRESCENT MOUNTAIN TRAIL #3384



Map Location: **11**

Length: 8 miles

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 3,500–5,500 feet

This hike begins by gently descending toward Maude Creek beneath a peaceful old-growth forest. After crossing the creek, the trail switchbacks for a mile through a shady forest, emerging onto open hillsides carpeted with wildflowers in the spring. Unobstructed views of the new and old Cascade Ranges greet you as you reach the top.

If you're a more ambitious hiker, you can continue for another 5 miles along Crescent Mountain ridge and down the north side to the South Pyramid Creek Trailhead on spur road 2067-572.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station to the South Trailhead, travel east on Highway 20 for about 41.8 miles. Turn left on Forest Road 2067 (Lava Lake). Continue 1 mile and turn left on spur road 508 and drive 0.5 miles to the trailhead on the right.

PYRAMIDS TRAIL #4145



Map Location: 15

Length: 1.9 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Topographical map: Coffin Mountain/Echo Mountain

Elevation: 4,000–5,618 feet

From the outset, this trail ascends steep wooded slopes interspersed with broad open meadows. Rocky crags covered with various species of alpine plants near the summit top offer spectacular views of spring colors. The junction with North Pyramid Trail is at 1.8 miles and another 0.2 to the summit of Middle Pyramid. Remains of the Three Pyramids Lookout, built in 1934, lie scattered about the summit of Middle Pyramid. Impressive panoramic views of the Cascades to the east and the Middle Santiam Wilderness to the west can be enjoyed along the way.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 41 miles and turn left onto Forest Road 2067 (Lava Lake). At around 5.6 miles, bear left on spur road 560 and continue for about 3.6 miles to the trailhead just past the junction with spur road 840.

For alternate access, follow Highway 20 to Santiam Junction and turn left onto Highway 22. Continue 4.8 miles to Forest Road 2067 (Lava Lake) and turn left. Travel approximately 2.0 miles and turn right on spur road 560 after crossing Parks Creek. Continue for 3.6 miles to the trailhead just past the junction with spur road 840.



On a clear day, from the summit of Middle Pyramid you can see all the way to Central Oregon

NORTH PYRAMID TRAIL #4161



Map Location: 23

Length: 3.5 miles

Difficulty: Difficult

Topographical map: Echo Mountain/Coffin Mountain

Elevation: 3,600–5,400 feet

Traveling south across the Pyramid Creek drainage, the trail climbs steeply up a major ridgeline using numerous switchbacks to reach the crest of Middle Pyramid.

The vegetation is dominated by typical mature, mixed conifer forests. You will discover areas created by natural slumps that harbor cedar and moist plant communities. As you gain elevation, you'll catch occasional glimpses of views to the west with the Middle Pyramid vantage providing the crown jewel of them all.

The trail provides northern access to the Three Pyramids ridgeline and shares a trailhead with the Scar Mountain Trail (see above trail descriptions).

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, take Highway 20 east and turn left on Highway 22 at the Santiam Junction. Travel north for 7.7 miles and turn left on Forest Road 2266.

SOUTH PYRAMID CREEK TRAIL #3403



Map Location: 14 16

Length: 5.8 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Echo Mountain

Elevation: 2,400–4,000 feet

The trail offers a link from the Old Cascades Trail network to the Middle Santiam Trail system. It ends at the junction with the Chimney Peak Trail near Shedd Camp Shelter.

If you're a horse rider or big game hunter, you'll find this trip particularly attractive. The route meets horse trail standards and travels through prime elk habitat.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 41 miles to Forest Road 2067 (Lava Lake). Turn left and travel 5.7 miles to spur road 560. Turn left and continue 3 miles to the junction with spur road 840. Turn left and travel 1.5 miles to the trailhead on the right.

Note: A midpoint trailhead at South Pyramid Horse Camp can also be accessed. This horse camp has highlines installed. From Sweet Home Ranger Station, take Highway 20 east and turn left on Highway 22 at the Santiam Junction. Travel north for 7.7 miles and turn left on Forest Road 2266. Continue 3.2 miles to Forest Road 2047 and turn left. Travel 7.1 miles to spur road 747 and turn right. Continue 4 miles to the trailhead on the left.



Columbine flower (*Aquilegia coerulea*)

SCAR BASIN AREA

These short day hikes to high elevation lakes give anglers and campers the chance to experience the solitude of a forest setting. Potable water is not available at these lakes. Primitive toilets can be found at Daly Lake.

DALY LAKE TRAIL #3385



Map Location: 22

Length: 1 mile

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Coffin Mountain

Elevation: 3,400–3,600 feet

Anglers will like this trail for its easy access to and around a lake that has abundant trout. A mature true fir forest surrounds the lake. This trail was first built by J.B. Waldo in 1906.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 45 miles to Highway 22. Turn left and follow the highway for 7.5 miles to Forest Road 2266 (Parish Lake Road) and turn left. Continue on Forest Road 2266 for 4.8 miles to spur road 450. Turn right and travel 0.5 mile to the trailhead.

PARISH LAKE TRAIL #3383



Map Location: 23

Length: 1 mile

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Coffin Mountain

Elevation: 3,300–3,500 feet

This short trail takes you to Parish Lake, another pleasant setting for campers and anglers.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 45 miles to Highway 22. Follow Highway 22 for 7.5 miles and turn left on Forest Road 2266 (Parish Lake Road). Continue for 5 miles to the trailhead on the left.



RIGGS LAKE TRAIL

  Map Location: 21

Length: 0.6 mile

Difficulty: Easy

Topographical map: Coffin Mountain

Elevation: 3,300–3,320 feet

Riggs Lake Trail follows the eastern edge of a harvest unit before entering a spruce and fir forest that offers a pleasant setting for camping and fishing. You can also take an unmaintained 0.5 mile trail up to Don Lake.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 45 miles to Highway 22 and turn left. Follow 7.7 miles to Forest Road 2266 (Parish Lake Road). Continue on 2266 for 6.5 miles to Riggs Lake Trailhead on the right.

TIDBITS MOUNTAIN/BEAR PASS AREA

These mid elevation trails are the main access to peaks along the Sweet Home Ranger District's southern boundary.

TWIN BUTTES TRAIL #3404



Map Location: **26**

Length: 1.2 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Tidbits Mountain

Elevation: 4,240–5,312 feet

This trail winds through mature true fir forests as it climbs to the top of Twin Buttes, an old abandoned lookout site. Views of the Cascades are splendid from this 5,300 foot viewpoint.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station travel east on Highway 20 for 16 miles and turn right on Forest Road 2032 (Gordon Road). Travel 14.4 miles to the trailhead on the left.

GORDON LAKES TRAIL #3386



Map Location: **24** **25**

Length: 7.2 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical maps: Tidbits Mountain

Elevation: 3,000–4,100 feet

Starting in a harvest unit, the trail switchbacks into remnant pockets of old-growth forest. Paralleling Falls Creek, it slowly climbs to Gordon Meadows. You will pass under Soapgrass Mountain, a sheer basalt cliff, before arriving at the lakes, which contain cutthroat trout.



Gordon Lake

Directions: To reach the west trailhead, from Sweet Home Ranger Station, travel east on Highway 20 for 16 miles and turn right on Forest Road 2032 (Gordon Road). Travel 5 miles and turn left on spur road 325. The trailhead is at the end of the spur road. This is an excellent trailhead for horseback riding.

If you're primarily interested in accessing the lakes, you can start at Latiwi Creek Trailhead. From Sweet Home Ranger Station travel east on Highway 20 for 25.3 miles and turn right on Forest road 2044 (Latiwi Creek). Continue south to spur road 230. The east trailhead is at the end of the road. The trail drops 0.25 miles to the lakes.

TIDBITS MOUNTAIN TRAIL (WEST) #3398



Map Location: 

Length: 1.4 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Tidbits Mountain

Elevation: 4,260–5,185 feet

Beginning in a young forest, the trail runs along a ridge and through mature true fir forests before reaching the top of Tidbits Mountain. A concrete pad and some yew wood posts are all that remain of the old Tidbits Lookout. There's a great view of the Cascade Range from this 5,185 foot perch.

Directions: From Sweet Home Ranger Station travel east on Highway 20 for 13 miles and turn right on Forest Road 2022 (Canyon Creek Road). Turn right on Forest Road 2026 and travel 7.6 miles to spur road 335. Turn left and travel 3.1 miles to the trailhead on the right.

TIDBITS MOUNTAIN TRAIL (SOUTH) #3328



Map Location: 

Length: 1.25 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Tidbits Mountain

Elevation: 4,080–4,760 feet

The trail climbs in stages through an old growth forest. Rhododendrons and huckleberries are abundant. The trail ends at 4760' when it joins the Gold Hill Trail. Continue west on the Gold Hill Trail for .5 miles to the Tidbits Mountain Trail (West) and on to the summit of Tidbits Mountain and the remains of the old Tidbits Lookout

Directions: From the Sweet Home Ranger Station travel East on US 20 for 13.6 miles and turn right on Forest Road 2022 (Canyon Creek Road). Travel 15.2 miles on Forest Road 2022 then turn right on Forest Road 1509. Travel 5.7 miles to Forest Road 877, turn right and travel .2 miles to the trailhead.

Caution: Forest Road 877 is steep, rutted, and full of loose gravel. It is not suitable for all low-clearance, two-wheel drive vehicles. However, parking is available and the 1509-877 junction.

GOLD HILL TRAIL #3370



Map Location:  27

Length: 3.7 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Topographical map: Tidbits Mountain

Elevation: 3,900–5,000

The trail climbs to a ridgeline as you travel southwest to Tidbits Mountain. On the way, you meander through mature old-growth mixed conifer forests. Columnar rock outcroppings above the route are a delight for those with a curious eye. The trail connects with Tidbits Mountain Trail West and South. Continue west for Tidbits Summit.

Directions: From Sweet Home, travel east on Highway 20 for 14.2 miles to Forest Road 2022 (Canyon Creek Road). Turn right and travel 15.7 miles to the junction of Forest Road 1509. Turn right and travel less than 0.5 miles to the trailhead on the right.

TRAILHEAD GPS COORDINATES

LOWER SANTIAM AREA

Trout Creek Trailhead

44°23'54.7764"N 122°20'49.6428"W

Walton Ranch Interpretive Trailhead

44°23'53.9"N 122°20'55.7"W

Yukwah Nature Trailhead

44°23'54.6"N 122°20'27.4"W

Rooster Rock Trailhead

44°24'15.0"N 122°17'50.0"W

House Rock Trailhead

44°23'34.6"N 122°14'44.0"W

SANTIAM WAGON ROAD TRAIL SYSTEM

Mountain House to Latiwi Creek Road Trailhead

44°24'17.7"N 122°16'41.8"W

Latiwi Creek Road to Sevenmile Trailhead

44°23'10.0"N 122°13'58.7"W

Sevenmile Trailhead to Tombstone Pass

44°22'55.8"N 122°12'36.2"W

Tombstone Pass to Hackelman Creek Trailhead

44°23'42.6"N 122°08'26.4"W

Hackelman Creek Road to Fish Lake Trailhead

44°24'44.1"N 122°02'33.5"W

MIDDLE SANTIAM TRAIL SYSTEM

Chimney Peak Trailhead

44°29'31.4"N 122°09'58.6"W

Swamp Peak Trailhead

44°33'18.7"N 122°10'30.8"W

Gordan Peak/Scar Mountain Trailhead

44°33'51.5"N 122°07'44.0"W

McQuade Creek Trailhead

44°33'28.9"N 122°16'55.8"W

TOMBSTONE PASS AREA

Iron Mountain Trailhead

Long Hike (015 road):

44°23'35.7"N 122°08'56.7"W

Short Hike (end of 035 road):

44°23'55.3"N 122°09'20.8"W

Cone Peak Trailhead

44°23'42.1"N 122°08'25.5"W

Echo Basin Trailhead

44°24'46.7"N 122°05'07.5"W

Browder Ridge Trailhead

44°22'23.0"N 122°08'03.1"W

Gate Creek Trailhead (East end of Browder Ridge Trail)

44°22'17.3"N 122°03'18.7"W

Hackelman Old-Growth Trailhead

44°23'59.5"N 122°05'33.3"W

OLD CASCADE CREST TRAIL SYSTEM

Scar Mountain/Gordon Peak Trailhead

44°33'52.4"N 122°07'43.4"W

Crescent Mountain Trailhead

44°25'44.8"N 122°01'49.7"W

North Pyramid Creek Trailhead

44°31'58.5"N 122°04'09.7"W

Middle Pyramid/Three Pyramids Trailhead

44°29'56.5"N 122°03'44.5"W

South Pyramid Creek Trailhead

44°29'43.4"N 122°08'16.3"W

SCAR BASIN AREA

Daly Lake Trailhead

44°32'29.9"N 122°04'05.1"W

Parish Lake Trailhead

44°32'06.9"N 122°04'27.0"W

Riggs Lake Trailhead

44°32'39.9"N 122°05'21.6"W

TIDBITS MOUNTAIN/BEAR PASS AREA

Twin Buttes Trail

44°19'31.7"N 122°15'34.1"W

Gold Hill Trailhead

44°17'27.5"N 122°17'14.5"W

Gordon Lakes Trailhead East

44°21'20.3"N 122°15'36.7"W

Gordon Lakes Trailhead West

44°23'08.5"N 122°21'14.8"W

Tidbits Mountain West Trailhead

44°16'27.3"N 122°20'14.0"W

Tidbits Mountain South Trailhead (Trail 3328, road NF- 1509)

44°15'33.8"N 122°17'56.7"W



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