

# Rogue-Umpqua

## Scenic Byway

OREGON



Gregg Morgan

*Rabbit Ears - Upper Rogue*



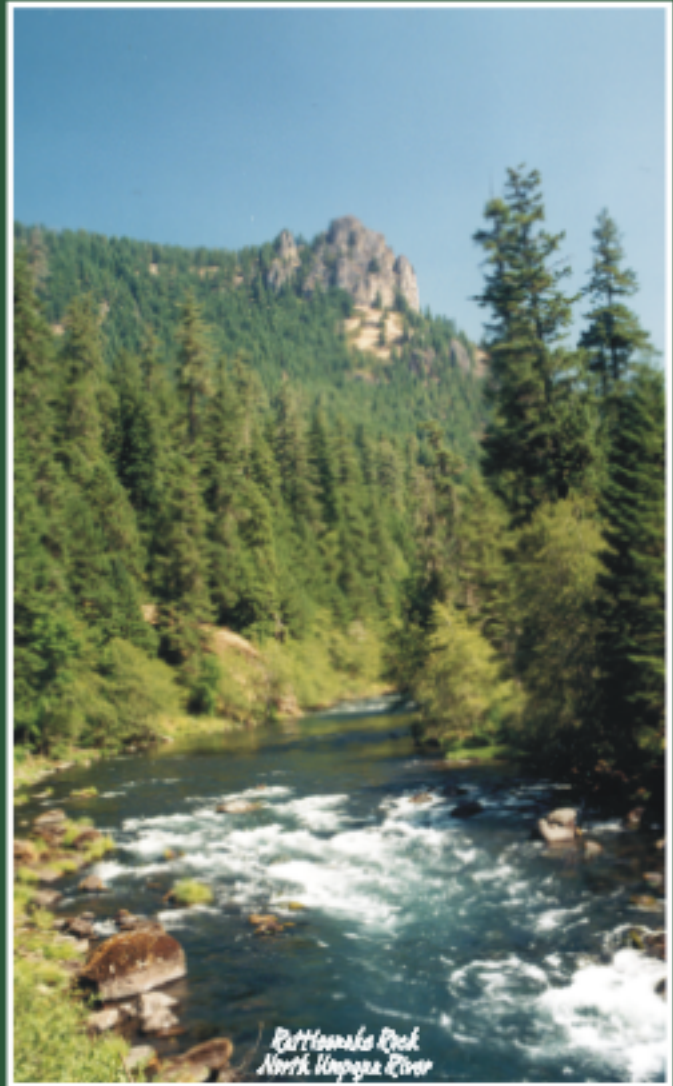
Gregg Morgan

*Flowing Rock - North Umpqua River*



Al Sossaman

*Mt. Thielen - High Country*



*Rattlesnake Rock  
North Umpqua River*

This brochure is a cooperative project developed by the Roseburg and Medford Districts - Bureau of Land Management, the Umpqua and Rogue River National Forests, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Cover Photo: Gregg Morgan



# Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway

Discover the Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway, a stunning 172-mile drive along the North Umpqua and Upper Rogue Wild & Scenic Rivers to their headwaters in the heart of the Southern Cascades.

The drive owes its dramatic scenery and incredible landscapes to a fiery volcanic past. From rolling hills to 9,000 foot peaks, from whitewater rivers to cascade lakes, this travel-way abounds with natural beauty.

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## Three Segments of the Loop

This naturally rich Scenic Byway forms a partial loop between Roseburg on Highway 138 and Gold Hill on Highway 234. Visit the highlights in a day, or take several days to explore the byway's diversity.



Mott Bridge

### North Umpqua

Experience the transition from rolling hills to towering forests along the North Umpqua River.

Pages 4-7



Diamond Lake, Mt. Thielsen

### High Cascades

Travel through geologic landscapes born of a fiery past.

Pages 10-13



Rogue River

### Upper Rogue

Follow the Rogue River from the pristine springs of its headwaters to its raging rapids.

Pages 16-18



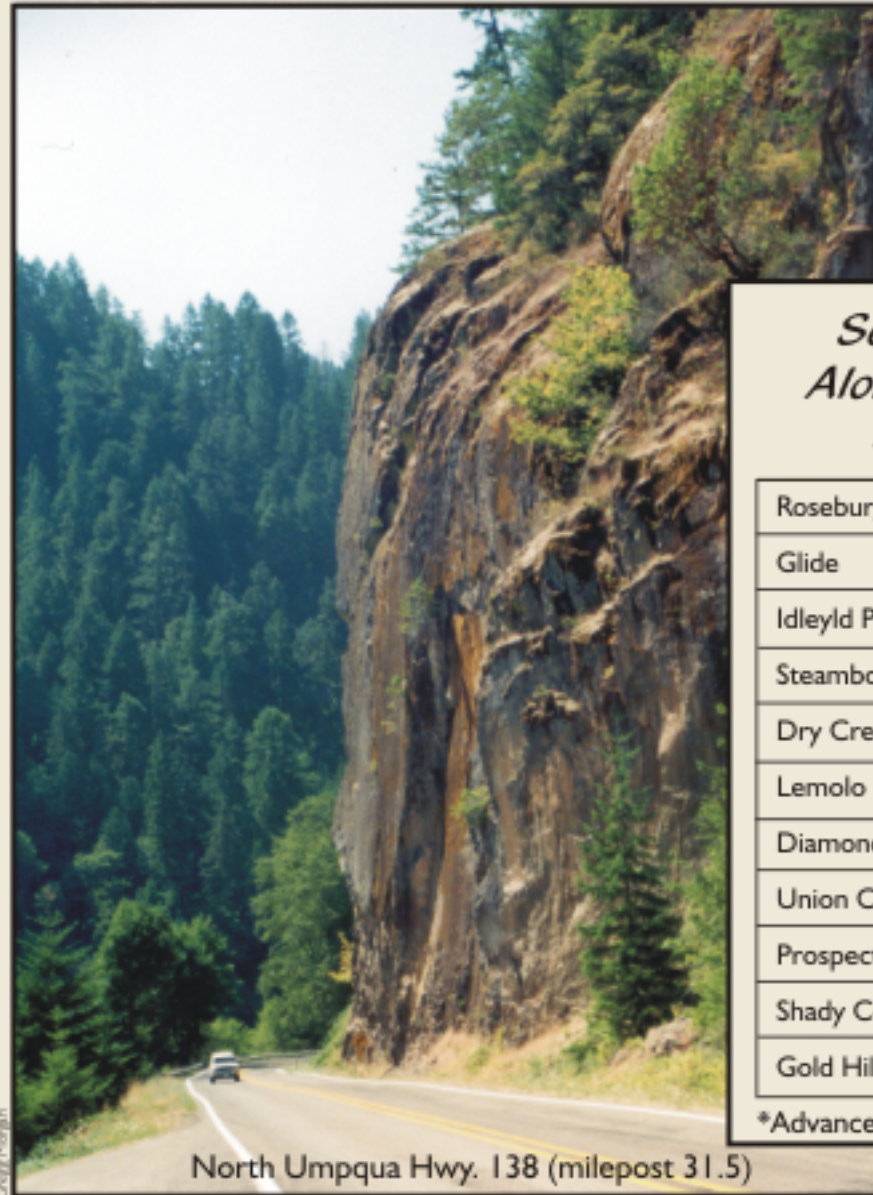
# Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway



# Planning Ahead

Plan ahead when traveling. Some resorts and campgrounds require reservations during the busy summer season. There are 34 campgrounds and a limited number of motel rooms along the North Umpqua Scenic Byway. The Byway route is paved and open year-round. Elevations range from 400 feet to over 5,000 feet, with the snow zone usually above 2,500 feet from November to April. Call the Oregon Department of Transportation for current road conditions at (800) 977-6368, or visit their website at [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com).

*Take Time to Enjoy . . .* This guide will help you manage your time and plan your destinations. Each point of interest has a description followed by the *approximate amount of time* needed to enjoy that feature.



North Umpqua Hwy. 138 (milepost 31.5)

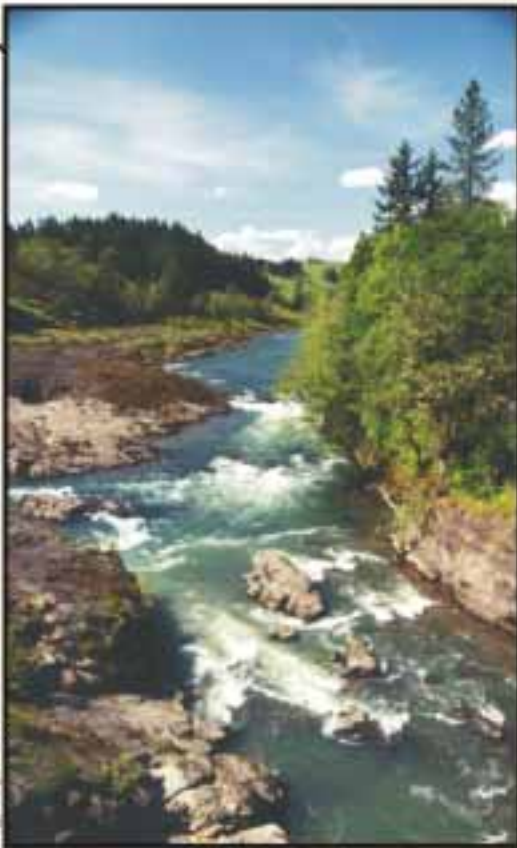
## Services Along the Byway

	Restaurant	Groceries	Gas	Lodging*	RV Park	Medical	Dump Station
Roseburg	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Glide	•	•	•			•	
Idlewild Park		•	•	•	•		•
Steamboat	•			•			
Dry Creek		•	•		•		
Lemolo Lake	•	•	•	•	•		•
Diamond Lake	•	•	•	•	•		•
Union Creek	•	•	•	•			•
Prospect	•	•	•	•	•		•
Shady Cove	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gold Hill	•	•	•	•	•		•

\*Advance reservations may be required



# The North Umpqua

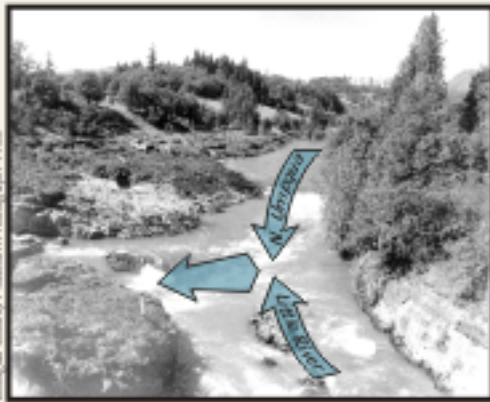


*Colliding Rivers, Glide*

The North Umpqua segment passes through rolling hillsides of mixed oak and conifers, transitioning into virgin stands of Douglas-fir, sugar pine, cedar and hemlock trees. For 40 miles the Byway parallels the North Umpqua Wild & Scenic River, famed for its remarkable emerald green waters and steelhead trout habitat. In this corridor you will discover many recreation activities -- fishing, camping, rafting, hiking, biking, photography, and watchable wildlife sites. The upper portion of the segment is rich in geologic formations which contribute to its spectacular scenery.

## ① Colliding Rivers

A unique geologic phenomenon at this site causes the North Umpqua River and Little River to collide (see photo below). Views are most spectacular with higher river flows during the wet season. Interpretive panels describing the geologic activity, historic and prehistoric use, and a short nature trail are located at the viewpoint. An historic structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938 is currently used as a visitor information center, open from May through October. Brochures, maps, and books are available at the center. For more information call (541) 496-0157. *15-30 minutes.*



## ② Rock Creek Fish Hatchery

The hatchery, operated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, produces close to a million salmon and steelhead trout annually for release into local rivers and lakes. Free self-guided tours are available daily so bring your lunch and enjoy the picnic area. Entrance to the hatchery is one-half mile up Rock Creek Road. For tour information, call (541) 496-3484. *60 minutes.*

## ③ Swiftwater Recreation Area

Located at the western boundary of the North Umpqua Trail and Wild & Scenic River, the Swiftwater area is a popular fishing spot for steelhead trout and salmon. Fly fishing only regulations are in effect ¼-mile upstream and extend for 33 miles to the Soda Springs Powerhouse.



Parking for the North Umpqua Trail is located across the bridge. The first ¼-mile of the trail is accessible to the disabled and leads to the

Deadline Falls Watchable Wildlife Site. From May to October, fish can often be seen jumping the falls on their journey upstream. A pavilion is available for group use at Swiftwater County Park. (541) 440-4500. *15-60 minutes.*



## ④ North Umpqua Trail

This 79-mile trail follows the North Umpqua River from Swiftwater Park to the Pacific Crest Trail. Eleven access points provide a variety of hiking opportunities for different ability levels. Observe the changing forest as the trail climbs, starting with old-growth Douglas-fir at the lower elevations and ending with mountain hemlock in the higher elevations. *Day visit.*



## 5 Susan Creek Falls

This 0.8 mile accessible trail (rated easy for hiking and difficult for wheelchairs) leads visitors to Susan Creek Falls. The scenic 50-foot waterfall plunges over moss-lined rock cliffs. Enjoy a picnic at the falls.

*60 minutes.*



Craig Morgan



6

## Fall Creek Falls

Follow a one-mile trail through lush forests and a narrow rock crevice, and meander along the stream to a double-tiered waterfall. Although this trail has a few moderately steep climbs, it is a popular hike for families.

*60 minutes.*

Craig Morgan

## 8 North Umpqua River



Don Meyer

This Wild & Scenic River offers challenging fishing and exciting whitewater rafting in the midst of spectacular scenery. Get more information at the North Umpqua Ranger Station in Glide, or the BLM office in Roseburg.

*Day visit.*

## 7 Mott Bridge

The historic Mott Bridge was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935. The parking area across the bridge serves as the trailhead for the Mott and Panther segments of the North Umpqua Trail. The interpretive kiosk at this site features the history of the area, steelhead fisheries and angling, and specific trail features. A public phone is available. *15-30 minutes.*

*Mott Bridge*



# *Fishing the Byway*

The Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway has a long history of attracting anglers to the cold, clear waters of its rivers and lakes. The variety of fishing environments gives visitors many choices for angling or watching wildlife. Be sure to check with the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for specific rules.

## *North Umpqua River*

The combination of large summer-run steelhead, easy access to the river, and majestic scenery makes this area a world-renowned fishing spot. Since 1952, a 33-mile section above Deadline Falls has been reserved exclusively for fly-fishing. Opportunities for bait-fishing abound below the falls. Between May and October, the patient visitor may observe migrating salmon or steelhead jumping at Deadline Falls.

## *Lakes and Reservoirs of the High Cascades*

Lemolo and Diamond lakes have been favorite fishing spots for generations. German brown trout at Lemolo Lake and rainbow trout at Diamond Lake are the fish to catch. Lost Creek Reservoir offers opportunities for warm water and cold water game fish. Rainbow trout are stocked annually in this large reservoir.

## *Upper Rogue River*

This scenic river cuts its way through volcanic rock, creating a variety of habitats for rainbow and cutthroat trout. Just below Lost Creek Reservoir are the "Holy Waters", a short stretch of river offering year-round fly-fishing only. Farther downstream, salmon and steelhead runs attract the avid angler.



# Built to Last a Lifetime

In the midst of the Great Depression of the 1930's, President Franklin D. Roosevelt developed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), known as the "Green Army", which put Americans back to work building thousands of structures and fighting forest fires on public lands.

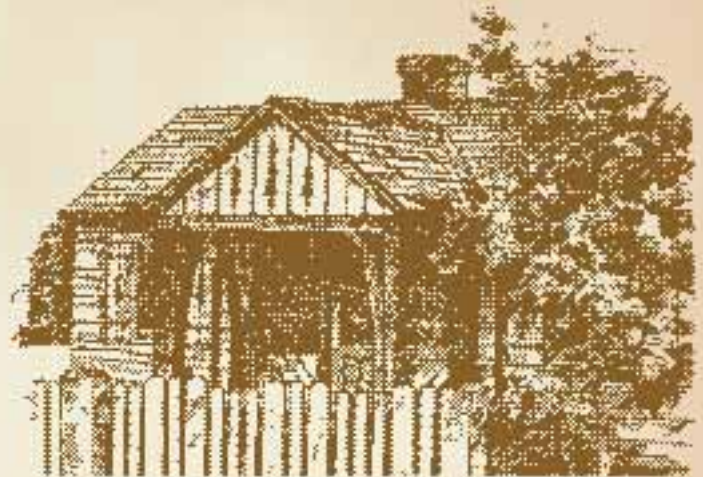


CCC Fire Fighting Crew

Along the Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Byway are many structures reminiscent of a time of unique craftsmanship. You will see this rustic architecture in buildings, bridges, pavilions, and fire lookout towers along the route, several of which were constructed by the CCC between 1935 and 1939. Many of these structures survive today; others have been reconstructed to maintain the Cascadian architecture that blends so well into the natural environment. Even portions of the original highway were constructed by the CCC during those years.

## Colliding Rivers Information Center

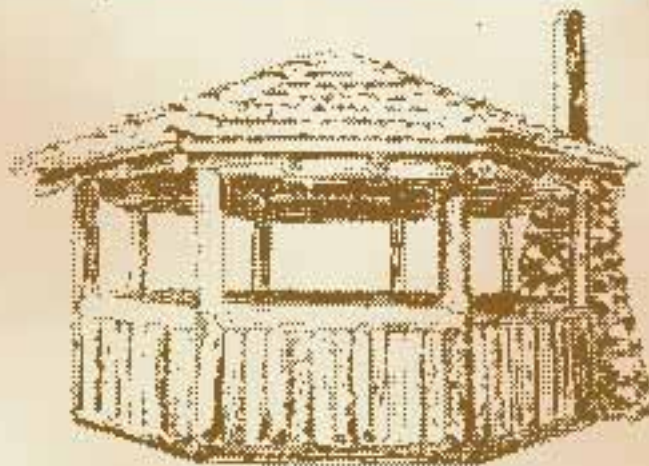
Located in Glide, this structure was built by the CCC in 1938, and has served as a ranger station, a home, and now an information center. Thanks to grants, volunteers, and hard work, the center was refinished and opened in 1992. (See map on page 4.)





## Illahee Flats

The meadows of Illahee Flats were first used by American Indians as a meeting place to trade goods and gamble. From the 1920's through the 1940's, the Flats served as a pack-string rest stop, a fire guard station and a CCC complex. After the original gazebo (built in 1928) burned in 1997, a replica was rebuilt. To get there, follow gravel road 4760 (east of the Dry Creek Store, off Highway 138) for 1.6 miles; turn right on the 039 spur road and travel a short distance to the Flats. (See map on page 4.)



Gazebo at Illahee Flats

## Fire Lookout Towers

For a panoramic view of the surrounding landscapes, visit one of these fire lookouts between June and September:

**Cinnamon Butte Lookout** - 4 miles north of Diamond Lake, take Forest Road 4793, off Hwy. 138. Travel approximately 3 miles on the gravel road to the lookout. (See map on page 10.)

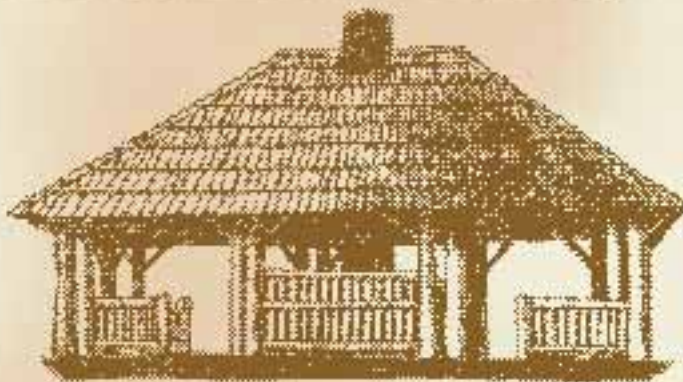
**Illahee Lookout** - take gravel road 4760, east of the Dry Creek Store, off Highway 138, for 6 miles, then 4760-100 for 1 mile to the trailhead. Hike approximately 1 mile to the tower. (See map on page 4.)



Illahee Lookout

## Union Creek

This shelter was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and served as their community kitchen. The resort and camping area known as the Union Creek District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original structure is located behind the Union Creek Wayside. (See map on page 16.)



Community kitchen at Union Creek



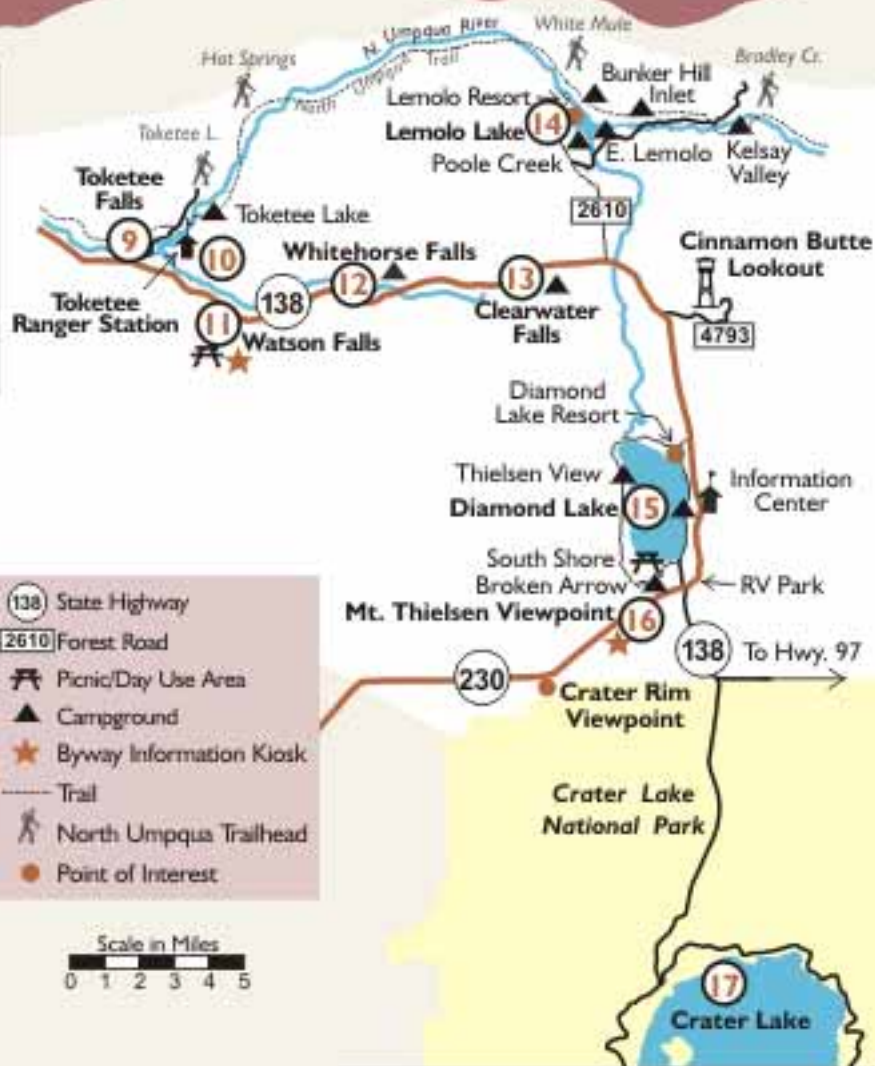
# The High Cascades



Mt. Bailey above Diamond Lake

This segment's fiery volcanic past is evident in its dramatic landscape. Towering waterfalls, snow-covered peaks, and high elevation lakes abound in year-round recreation opportunities.

The High Cascades boasts one of the most diverse recreation areas in the Pacific Northwest. From hiking, fishing, boating and waterskiing, to mountain climbing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling, outdoor adventures are endless.



The 11.6-mile John Dellenback Trail is a paved bicycle path around Diamond Lake



## 9 Toketee Falls

The double-tiered falls drops a total of 120 feet over columnar basalt presenting a spectacular view of colors and textures. The 0.4 mile hike to the falls has over 200 steps leading to an observation platform - a hike well worth the effort. A half-century-old redwood aqueduct, springing leaks and spraying water, is located near the parking area. The aqueduct is still in operation and channels water to the Toketee Hydroelectric Generator Plant. Directions: At milepost 59 on Hwy. 138, turn north on to Road 34 and follow signs (less than ¼ mile). *1-2 hours.*



## 11 Watson Falls

This accessible picnic area and viewpoint offers interpretive exhibits and a awesome view of one of the tallest waterfalls in Southwestern Oregon - 272 feet. A short but challenging trail takes you into the windy mist created by the crashing water of the falls. Directions: At milepost 61 on Hwy. 138, turn south on to Road 37. Trailhead parking is on the right. *60 minutes.*



## 10 Toketee Ranger Station

Information about the Diamond Lake Ranger District, US Forest Service, is located about one mile off Highway 138 at the Toketee Ranger Station. A variety of books on natural and cultural history are available for sale. Call the office at (541) 498-2531. *30 minutes.*



## 12 *Whitehorse Falls*

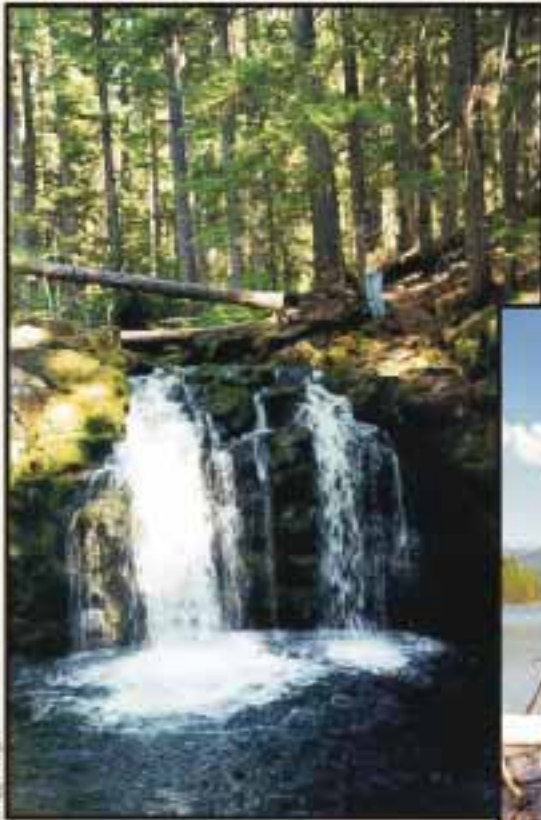
Located adjacent to the Whitehorse Falls Campground, this waterfall tumbles 15 feet into a punchbowl, providing a relaxing setting for a picnic. A viewing platform is located at the parking area. *15-30 minutes.*



Richard Hagen

## 13 *Clearwater Falls*

Take a short walk and feel the crystal clear, frigid water of the Clearwater River as it cascades over moss-covered rocks. *30 minutes.*



Greg Morgan



Greg Morgan

## 14 *Lemolo Lake*

A lodgepole pine forest surrounds a small resort, day-use area, and four campgrounds. Sandpipers flock along the shore among swimmers. Water skiing, fishing, and hiking are popular summer activities. Spectacular views of the High Cascades can be seen from the lake. In the winter, cross-country skiing and snowmobile trails lead through sparkling landscapes. The resort phone number is (541) 643-8750. *Day visit.*

## 15 Diamond Lake

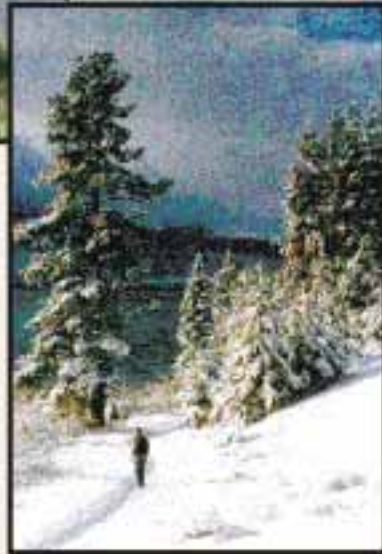
This popular year-round recreation area, with resort, campgrounds and RV park, provides opportunities for



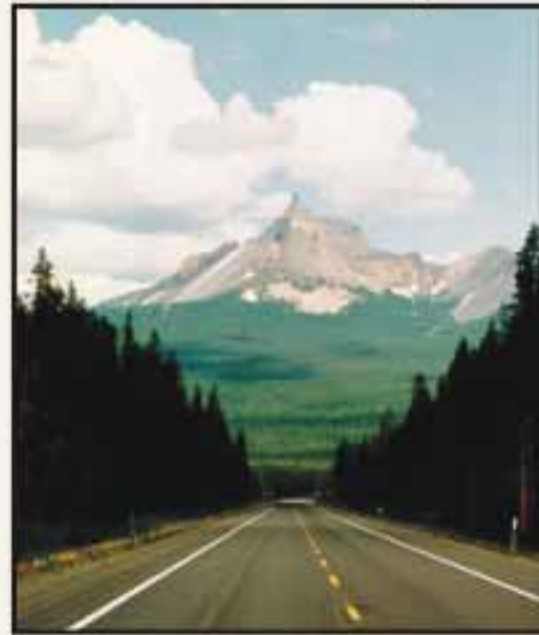
fishing, swimming, picnicking, sailing, waterskiing, hiking, horseback-riding and bicycling.

Winter sports include cross-country and snowcat skiing, snowmobiling and a tubing hill. A CCC era visitor center with interpretive exhibits and sales items is located at Diamond Lake Campground. A wide range of accommodations is available. Call (800) 733-7593.

*Day visit.*



## 16 Mt. Thielsen Viewpoint



Frame this ancient 9,182-foot volcano in your camera lens and you will see why it's called the "Lightning Rod of the Cascades." *15 minutes.*

## 17 Crater Lake

Oregon's only National Park, less than 25 miles off the Byway, is one of the Cascades' finest features. Interpretive exhibits and activities explain its origin. This "Wow" crater resulted from the cataclysmic explosion of Mt. Mazama 7,700 years ago. Take the 33-mile rim drive around the crater, or hike down the Cleetwood Cove Trail to catch a boat ride on the deep blue water of the caldera. (541) 594-2211.

Access the crater through the south entrance (Hwy. 62) in the winter. Call (800) 977-6368 for current weather and road conditions. *Day visit.*



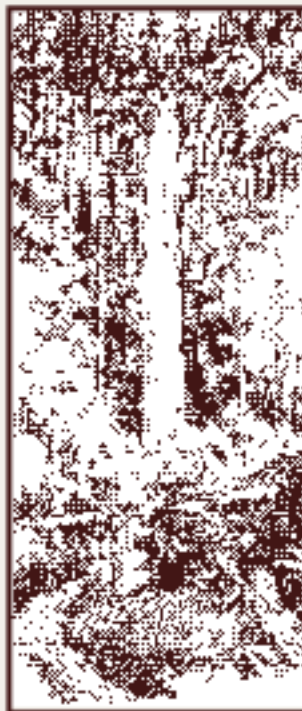
Don Murphy



## *A Fiery Past*

Traveling the Byway, visitors can experience millions of years of geologic time in just one day.

*Mt. Mazama*



**Watson Falls** - About 750,000 years ago volcanic eruptions produced a hot molten lava flow that filled this valley hundreds of feet deep with basaltic rock. Watson Creek spills over the northern edge of this flow to form Watson Falls.

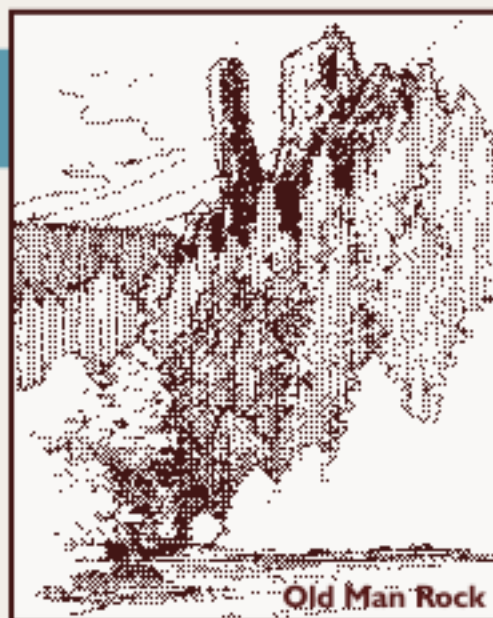
**Toketee Falls** - Less than 250,000 years ago, molten lava spewed from a vent and flowed like a river through this valley. Basalt columns were formed as the hot lava cooled. The North Umpqua River drops over these formations.

## *North Umpqua River Geology*

*See map on page 4 for locations*

**Colliding Rivers** - Resistant sills of basalt deflect Little River and the North Umpqua River, creating a phenomenon that forces the two rivers into a collision course.

**Umpqua Rocks Geologic Area** - Eroded remains of volcanic rock have created numerous jagged vertical spires: Old Man Rock, Eagle Rock, and Rattlesnake Rock are along Highway 138 between Eagle Rock and Boulder Flat campgrounds.



**Old Man Rock**

# High Cascades Features

See map on page 10 for locations



**Mt. Thielsen** - This 9,182-foot peak was a fiery volcano over a million years ago. It has endured glacial, wind and water erosion through time.

**Pumice deposits** - Rivers of pumice ash flowing from Mt. Mazama followed the Upper North Umpqua and Rogue River valleys. Pumice banks and canyons up to 400 feet deep remain in the upper valleys. These deposits can be seen between Boulder Flat Campground and Whitehorse Falls along Highway 138 and between Hamaker and Union Creek on Highway 230.

**Diamond Lake** - The eruption of Mt. Mazama (Crater Lake) sent flows of pumice and ash into the this valley, creating an earthen dam and impounding a new lake - Diamond Lake. Flowing springs and streams fill the 3,000-acre lake.

**Crater Rim Viewpoint** - Once a towering 12,000 foot volcano, Mt. Mazama violently erupted 7,700 years ago, creating the deepest lake in the United States (1,932 feet deep) - Crater Lake.



**Rabbit Ears** - This formation may have resulted from a massive volcanic event over seven million years ago. Geologists speculate the unique twin shapes were once part of a large caldera.

Illustrations by Joe Guarisco & Mary Brennan

## Upper Rogue Geologic Sites

See map on page 16 for locations

**Rogue Gorge/Natural Bridge** - The Rogue River cuts its way through a 1.25-million year old lava flows. The rushing river follows ancient lava tubes, forming natural bridges and gorges.



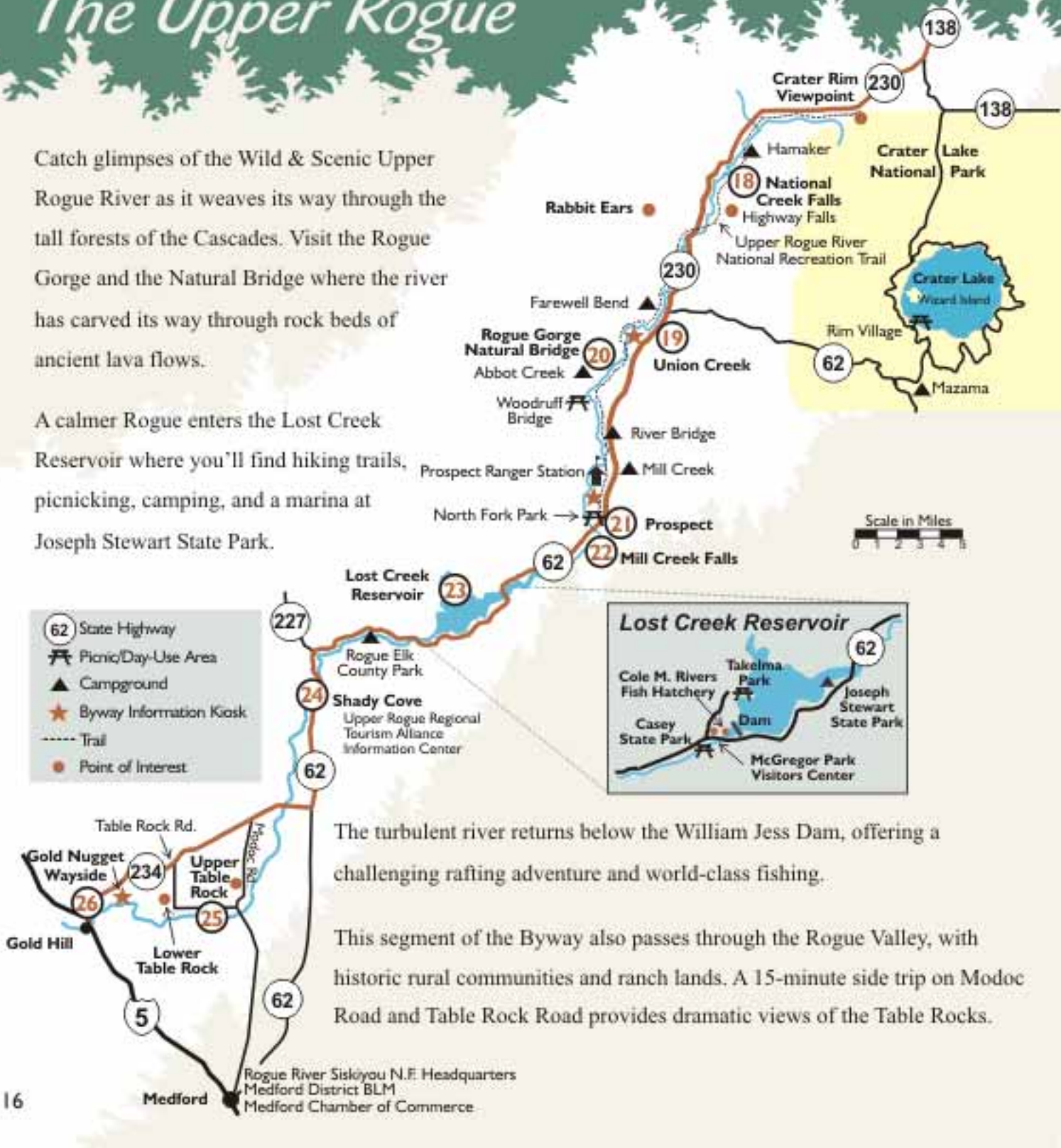
**Table Rocks** - Seven million years ago, a river of lava averaging 150 feet deep poured into the ancient Rogue River Valley. The soils of the valley have been slowly eroding away leaving these unique twin mesas 800 feet above the existing valley floor.



# The Upper Rogue

Catch glimpses of the Wild & Scenic Upper Rogue River as it weaves its way through the tall forests of the Cascades. Visit the Rogue Gorge and the Natural Bridge where the river has carved its way through rock beds of ancient lava flows.

A calmer Rogue enters the Lost Creek Reservoir where you'll find hiking trails, picnicking, camping, and a marina at Joseph Stewart State Park.



The turbulent river returns below the William Jess Dam, offering a challenging rafting adventure and world-class fishing.

This segment of the Byway also passes through the Rogue Valley, with historic rural communities and ranch lands. A 15-minute side trip on Modoc Road and Table Rock Road provides dramatic views of the Table Rocks.



Photo: Mike

**18** *National Creek Falls*

An excellent day hike for the whole family! This short trail (0.4 mile) descends through a shaded, mixed conifer forest, ending at the base of the ever-flowing falls. *60 minutes.*

**19** *Union Creek Historic District*

Enjoy the feel of the Civilian Conservation Corps era in this small forest community listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Visit the Union Creek Wayside for a glimpse of the past. *1-2 hours.*

**21** *Prospect*

Turn off the Byway to visit this quaint forest community. Enjoy a picnic or take the short hike to Pearsony Falls. From the south end of town, peer down the Avenue of the Boulders as the Rogue River emerges from the Cascades. For more information, visit or call the Prospect Ranger Station, US Forest Service at (541) 560-3400. *1-2 hours.*

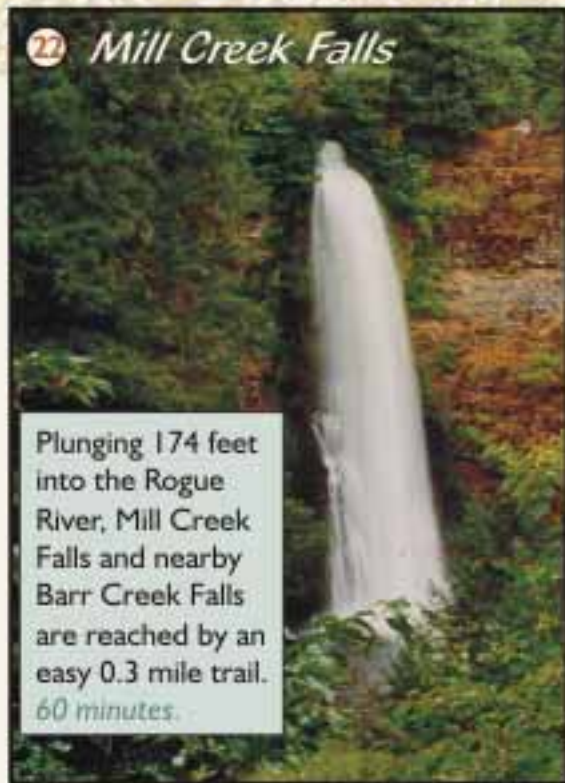


UFS

Rogue Gorge

**20** *Rogue Gorge and Natural Bridge*

See the Rogue River carve its way through narrow basalt canyons and lava tubes at these two geologic interpretive waysides less than one mile apart. *1-2 hours.*



Terry Tubb

**22** *Mill Creek Falls*

Plunging 174 feet into the Rogue River, Mill Creek Falls and nearby Barr Creek Falls are reached by an easy 0.3 mile trail. *60 minutes.*





### 23 *Lost Creek Reservoir*

Visit the Cole M. Rivers Fish Hatchery, one of the largest in the state, and get a closer look at the fish that inhabit the Upper Rogue River (541-878-2235). Discover natural and cultural history at the Spirit of the Rogue Nature Center at McGregor Park (541-878-3800). Explore more than 30 miles of hiking and bike trails at the reservoir or enjoy the full service marina and campground at Joseph H. Stewart State Park (541-560-3334). *Day visit.*

### 24 *Shady Cove*

Visitors are welcome in this friendly, full service community with overnight lodging, quaint shops and a selection of restaurants. Enjoy the wonders of the Rogue River and experience the excitement of whitewater rafting, or spend an evening fishing for the elusive salmon or trout. For more information call (541) 878-8216. *Day visit.*

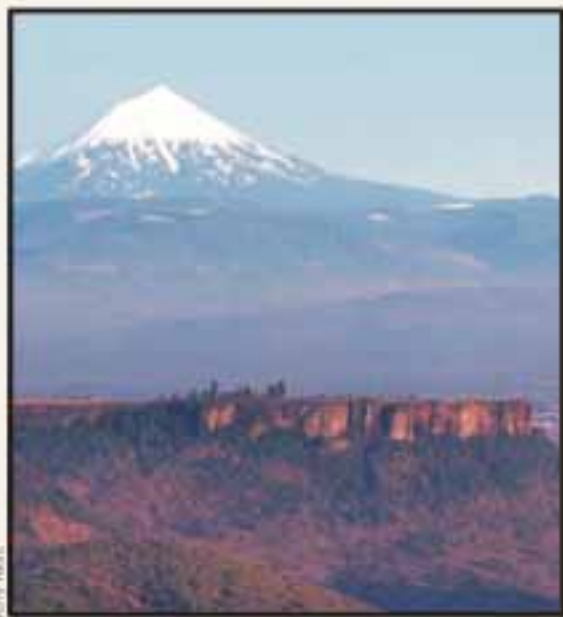


### 25 *Table Rocks*

Hike up one of these scenic mesas for a panoramic view of the Rogue Valley and surrounding mountains. Wildflower viewing is best from late March through April. *Half day visit.*

### 26 *Gold Nugget Wayside*

Take a moment at the wayside to learn some of the history of the Rogue Valley where American Indians and early settlers relied on the resources of the river. A short river trail and accessible tables make this an ideal picnic spot for everyone. *30-60 minutes.*



## For More Recreation Information



### Bureau of Land Management

#### Roseburg District BLM

777 NW Garden Valley  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
(541) 440-4930  
[www.or.blm.gov/roseburg](http://www.or.blm.gov/roseburg)

#### Medford District BLM

3040 Biddle Road  
Medford, OR 97504  
(541) 618-2200  
[www.or.blm.gov/medford](http://www.or.blm.gov/medford)



### USDA Forest Service

#### Umpqua National Forest

PO Box 1008 - 2900 NW Stewart Pkwy.  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
(541) 672-6601 TDD (541) 957-3459  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua)

#### Rogue River National Forest

PO Box 520 - 333 W. 8th Street  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 858-2200 TTY (541) 858-2203  
[www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogueriver](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/rogueriver)

### Visitor Information

#### Roseburg Visitors & Convention Bureau

410 SE Spruce Street,  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
(541) 672-9731  
[www.visitroseburg.com](http://www.visitroseburg.com)

#### Medford Chamber of Commerce

101 E. 8th Street  
Medford, OR 97501  
(541) 779-4847  
[www.medford.chamber.com](http://www.medford.chamber.com)

#### Upper Rogue Regional Tourism Alliance

21331 Crater Lake Hwy., Suite 6  
Shady Cove, OR 97539  
(541) 878-3626  
[www.upperrogue.org](http://www.upperrogue.org)



Terry Tait

Mt. McLoughlin

(view from west branch of Elk Cr., North of Shady Cove)

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