

## Trailhead Ambassadors 2018

### Starvation Creek: Alternative Hikes

#### Starvation Creek Summary

- **Near the Trailhead:**
  - **Starvation Creek Falls.** Just a short walk to the east.
  - **Loop trail to Cabin Creek Falls, Hole-in-the-Wall Falls and Lancaster Falls.**
    - **2.6 miles; 700' elevation gain.**
    - **Or, out and back to Lancaster Falls: 2.2 miles; nearly flat.**
- **More ambitious!**
  - **Starvation Ridge/Mt. Defiance Loop.**
    - **Not including Mt. Defiance Summit: 11 miles; 4,000' elevation gain.**
    - **Including Mt. Defiance Summit: 12.9 miles; 4,890' elevation gain.**
- **Alternative Parking.**
  - Viento State Park is only 1 mile to the east (Exit 56). At the end of the exit ramp turn right towards the South Campground. Before reaching the campground there is free parking in a day use area adjacent to a preserved section of the Historic Highway. You can walk or bike back to The Starvation Creek Rest Area in only one mile. It is paved all the way and a nice ride or stroll through the woods!
- **The Historic Highway.**
  - Closed from the Bridal Veil exit to its eastern end near Wyeth – i.e., the “Waterfall Alley” section.
  - The Herman Creek Trails and Elowah/Upper McCord Trails are closed.
  - The restored HCRH is also closed from the Elowah trailhead to Cascade Locks.
  - Multnomah Falls is open only from the I-84 parking area (Exit 31). The Lodge and lower viewing area are open, but the trail to the Benson Bridge and other trails in the area remain closed.

- **The Eagle Creek Fire.**

- In September 2017 a fire was started by a teenager playing with fireworks at Eagle Creek. By the time the fire was extinguished by the winter rains nearly 50,000 acres had been burned. The burn area included nearly all for the “Waterfall Alley” section of the Historic Columbia River Highway. Most of the trails in the area are closed. The trails are badly damaged by downed trees, landslides and destroyed bridges and would be very dangerous to hike. Trail crews are working hard to repair the damage and we hope to have many of the trails open by late summer or year-end. Some may require years for recovery. Meanwhile, the best thing we can do to help is to respect the closures and stay off those trails. Those trails will be monitored by the Forest Service and violators will be fined or arrested.

# How to get “*there*” from “*here*” (Starvation Creek Rest Area and Trailhead)!

## To Reach destinations to the west:

- Starvation Creek is Exit 55. There is no westbound entrance to I-84.
- Drive east one mile to Exit 56 Viento State Park. At the end of the exit ramp turn left under the highway; then left again onto the westbound entrance ramp.

## To Cascade Locks.

- 13 miles; 15 minutes to the **west**.
- Access to the Bridge of the Gods and trails on the Washington side.
- Follow the directions above to head west in I-84.
- Take Exit 44 Cascade Locks which leads into the east end of town.
- To reach the Bridge of the Gods drive through town to the west end.

## To Hood River.

- 10 miles; 10 minutes to the **east**.
- Multiple exits.
- Exit 63, gives access to city center and the riverfront.
- Exit 65, gives access to The Hood River Bridge and trails on the Washington side.

## To The Dalles.

- 32 miles; 30 minutes to the **east**.
- Multiple exits.
- Exit 82 for the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.
- Exit 85 for The Dalles City Center, National Historic District.
- Exit 87 for US 197 Dufer/Bend.
  - Left to The Dalles Bridge and access to trails on the Washington side.
  - Right to Dufer and Bend.

## Oregon. Trails to the West off of I-84.

- **Thunder Island in Cascade Locks.**
  - 14 miles; 15 minutes from Starvation Creek Rest Area.
  - Drive east 1 mile to Viento State Park loop back heading west.
  - Continue east on I-84 to Exit 44 Cascade Locks.
  - Drive west through town and turn right into Cascade Locks Marine Park.
  - Walk across the footbridge over the old locks channel to Thunder Island.
  - Explore the island! Take time to look at Table Mountain, the Red Cliffs and Greenleaf Peak across the River in Washington. These mountains collapsed and slid into the River during one of the 9.0 Cascadia earthquakes, blocking the flow and creating the “Bridge of the Gods”.
  - Toilets; no fees.
  
- **Bonneville Dam.**
  - 17 miles; 20 minutes from Starvation Creek Rest Area.
  - Drive east 1 mile to Viento State Park; loop back heading west.
  - Continue east on I-84 to Exit 40 Bonneville Dam.
  - Tour the dam: nice views of the River and the mountains on the Washington side; Visitor Center with information about the dam; viewing windows of the fish ladders.
  - Visit the Fish Hatchery on the same grounds as the dam. Information about the process of raising salmon and trout in hatcheries. Go see Herman the Sturgeon!
  - Toilets; no fees.
  
- **Bridal Veil Falls**
  - 36 miles; 40 minutes from Starvation Creek Rest Area.
  - Drive east 1 mile to Viento State Park; loop back heading west.
  - Continue west on I-84 to Exit 25 Rooster Rock State Park.
  - Note: there is no westbound exit at Bridal Veil.
  - Loop back on I-84 eastbound to Exit 28 Bridal Veil. Turn right and drive 0.7 miles to the Bridal Veil Trailhead
  - Take the Interpretive Trail as well as the trail to the waterfall. It is short, flat, paved and has great views of the River. In late April and early May the Camas fields are awesome! The falls are beautiful!
  - Toilets; no parking permit required. Dogs permitted on-leash.

- **Latourell Falls.**

- 2.4 miles; 5 minutes west of Bridal Veil Falls.
- 2.3 miles; 540' elevation.
- Two wonderful waterfalls!
- Can be very crowded on weekends.
- Toilets; no parking permit required.
- To return to I-84 **eastbound** drive west on the Historic Highway through Corbett and watch for the sign to I-84 (NE Corbett Hill Road). Turn right and rejoin I-84 at Exit 22 – which has both westbound and eastbound entrances and exits.
- To return to I-84 **westbound** drive east on the Historic Highway past Bridal Veil Falls. Turn left at the closure of the Historic Highway and rejoin I-84 at Exit 28, which has a westbound entrance ramp.

- **Rooster Rock State Park, Exit 25.**

- 32 miles; 30 minutes from Starvation Creek Rest Area.
- Drive east 1 mile to Viento State Park; loop back heading west.
- Continue west on I-84 to Exit 25 Rooster Rock State Park.
- Drive to the far western end for a close-up look at Rooster Rock. Look up towards the basalt cliffs below Crown Point and you can figure out where Rooster Rock detached and slid to its present location!
- A nice loop trail starts from the Visitor Center at the east end of the park. It is flat and 2.0 miles long with nice views across the River and up at the cliffs to the south.
- \$5 day use fee for the park. Dogs not permitted on the beaches.
- Or, board the shuttle for a free ride to Multnomah Falls. There are no fees if you just park for the shuttle.
- May 25 – June 10: Friday, Saturday, Sunday only.
- Daily starting June 11.

- **Sandy River Delta Park.**
  - 38 miles; 35 minutes from Starvation Creek Rest Area.
  - Drive east 1 mile to Viento State Park; loop back heading west.
  - Continue west on I-84 to Exit 18.
  - The park is on the north side of the interstate just east of the Sandy River.
  - Multiple, flat trails; some universal accessible. Suggest a loop of the Confluence and Boundary Trails – 2.75 miles.
  - The park is heavily visited by people with their dogs. Some areas are off-leash for dogs. Toilets; no fees.
  
- **Oxbow Regional Park.**
  - 49 miles; 60 minutes from Starvation Creek Rest Area.
  - Drive east 1 mile to Viento State Park; loop back heading west.
  - Continue west on I-84 to Exit 18.
  - Go south (left) and follow the signs to Lewis and Clark State Park. From there:
    - In 2.7 miles turn right on Stark and cross the Sandy River.
    - In 0.6 miles turn left onto SE Kerslake Rd.
    - In 0.8 miles turn right onto SE 302<sup>nd</sup> Ave.
    - In 1.0 miles turn left onto SE Division Dr.
    - In 0.2 miles take a slight right onto SE Oxbow Dr.
    - In 2.2 miles turn left onto SE Oxbow Pkwy.
    - In 1.3 miles arrive at Oxbow Regional Park.
  - 15 miles of hiking trails through old growth forest teeming with wildlife.
  - Toilets; no pets; \$5 day use fee.

## Oregon. Trails to the East off of I-84.

- **Mitchell Point.**
  - Drive 3 miles east to Exit 58 Mitchell Point.
  - Site of former tunnels on the Historic Highway which were destroyed when the interstate was built.
  - An unmarked trail from the back of the parking area climbs 1,020' in 1.2 miles. The first 0.4 miles follow a section of the old Joel Palmer Wagon Road. Then the trail climbs steeply to the summit with sweeping Gorge views. The ridge at the top is very narrow so it is advisable not to go too far towards the river. The trail can be overgrown with poison oak in places.
  - No toilet or parking fee.
  
- **Hood River.**
  - Drive 10 miles east to Exit 65 Hood River. Turn right and go north on OR-35.
  - **Mosier Twin Tunnels.**
    - Turn left on Old Columbia River Drive at the stop sign by the China Gorge restaurant.
    - Switchback uphill for 1.2 miles to the Mark Hatfield West Trailhead for the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. Toilets; \$5 one-day pass.
    - This restored section of the Historic Highway is open for hiking and biking only (no cars or motorized vehicles). It leads past beautiful view of the Gorge.
    - 7 miles one way to the east trailhead in Mosier. The tunnels are about 3 miles from the west trailhead.
    - Bikers can continue through Mosier on the Historic Highway and reach Rowena Plateau in 7.3 miles from the east end of the Twin Tunnels trail (14.3 miles total from the trailhead in Hood River).
  - **Mount Hood.**
    - Drive south 41 miles (48 min.) on OR-35 to Government Camp.
    - From Government Camp drive north 6.3 miles (13 min.) on Timberline Hwy to Timberline Lodge.

- **Mosier.**
  - Drive 15 miles east to Exit 70 Mosier.
  - Go through town and park in the area near the totem pole. Outhouse; no parking fees.
  - Walk east and find a trailhead at the east end of the one-lane bridge.
  - The trail winds through an old cemetery and past a waterfall, then switchbacks up to Mosier Plateau, owned by the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. Great flowers in the spring and stunning Gorge views.
  - Outhouse; no parking fee.
  
- **Exit 73 Memaloose.**
  - Drive 18 miles east to Exit 73 Memaloose Rest Area. Toilets; no fees.
  - From the west end of the parking area hike uphill on an old road which quickly becomes a trail. Before reaching the Historic Highway follow the trail to the left and come to the Memaloose Overlook. Go south and cross the Historic Highway. Then follow the trail leading uphill to the south.
  - After crossing a small stream reach a junction and take the trail to the right. It will soon break out into an open field. Continue south and then turn west on a trail that goes steeply uphill to the top of Chatfield Hill. Great Gorge views and spring flowers.
  - On the return take an optional side trip to the top of Marsh Hill following the trail leading east from the junction.
  - 3.6 miles; 850' elevation gain.
  
- **Rowena Plateau; Tom McCall Point.**
  - Drive 21 miles; 20 minutes east to Exit 76 Rowena.
  - After the exit ramp go east then quickly turn right to US 30. Switchback up the hill to Rowena Crest. No toilets or fees. No dogs permitted.
  - **Tom McCall Point.**
    - Follow the trail that goes uphill to the south from the parking area.
    - Great Gorge views and spring flowers.
    - 3.2 miles; 1000' elevation.
  - **Rowena Plateau.**
    - Walk across the road and follow the trail towards the river.
    - A gentle 2 mile walk with minimal elevation loss/gain, past kolk ponds left by the Ice Age Floods and mysterious "MIMA Mounds". Great river views.

- **Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.**
  - Drive 27 miles; 25 minutes to Exit 82 Columbia Gorge Discovery Center.
  - At the end of the exit ramp turn right and then right again following the signs to the Discovery Center.
  - The Center contains displays and information about the Oregon Trail, Lewis and Clark, George Geology and the Ice Age Floods. At times non-releasable injured raptors will be available for viewing.
  - Fees vary: \$5-9; toilets, gift shop, café. No parking fee.
  
- **Deschutes River State Recreation Area.**
  - Drive 42 miles; 40 minutes to Exit 97 Celilo Village.
  - Turn right, then left onto the Celilo-Wasco Highway. Go east 3 miles to the State Park. Toilets; no parking fee.
  - A nice hiking trail along the river connects to a former railroad bed. This trail continues 17 miles south into Oregon. An old railroad car at 5 miles from the trailhead is a good destination for a day hike.
  - Great views of the river and interesting geological formations along the road-cuts made for the railroad bed.

# Washington. Trails West of Cascade Locks.

## Cascade Locks.

- Drive east one mile to Exit 56 Viento State Park. At the end of the exit ramp turn left under the highway; then left again onto the westbound entrance ramp.
- 12 miles; 15 minutes to the **west**.
- Take Exit 44 Cascade Locks which leads into the east end of town.
- To reach the Bridge of the Gods drive through town to the west end.
- Cross the Bridge of the Gods into Washington. \$2 fee.
- Turn left onto WA-14.
  
- **Gillette Lake/Greenleaf Overlook.**
  - 2 miles; 3 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
  - Park at Bonneville Trailhead. Toilets; WA Discover Pass required.
  - 8.6 miles and 875' elev. gain to the Overlook; 6.0/500' to the Lake.
  - A 0.7 mile connector trail leads to the PCT. Go left (west) on the PCT.
  - In one sense this is an “ugly” hike because about half of it is through clear cuts. On the other hand, the geology is pretty interesting! You hike through a jumble of hummocks and boulders that came down to block the Columbia and create the Bridge of the Gods when Table Mountain and Greenleaf Peak collapsed during a massive earthquake. Looking up at these mountains and the Red Cliffs between them it is easy to visualize what happened.
  
- **Ft. Cascades.**
  - 3 miles; 4 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
  - Turn left into the Bonneville Dam access road (directly across from Hot Springs Road); then go right onto the fishing access road to Fort Cascades Historic Site.
  - A 1.2 mile, flat loop trail.
  - Grab an interpretive brochure at the kiosk and hike to 14 stops describing the history of the area.
  - Toilets; no parking permit required. Dogs permitted on-leash.

- **Beacon Rock.**

- 7 miles; 15 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
- Park on the left side of Hwy 14 near the toilets. The trail up the Rock starts at the west end of the parking area.
- 1.8 miles; 600' elev. gain to the top! Great views up and down the River.
- For a really great view of the Rock (and a nice place for a picnic lunch) drive 0.7 mile west on Hwy 14 and turn left onto Doetsch Ranch Road. Drive to the boat docks at the end of the road.
- Toilets; Washington Discover pass required.

- **Hamilton Mountain.**

- 7 miles; 15 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
- Make a sharp right turn on the road into Beacon Rock State Park. (It is right across the highway from the parking for Beacon Rock). Wind uphill to the Hamilton trailhead.
- The popular loop route to the top of Hamilton is 8.2 miles; 2,100' elev. gain. Flowers; views; waterfalls! An iconic Gorge hike!
- For a shorter hike just go 1.2 miles; 500' elev. gain to Rodney Falls and the Pool of the Winds. Return the same way.
- Toilets; Washington Discover pass required.

- **Cape Horn.**

- 15.2 miles; 20 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
- Park at Salmon Falls Road Park and Ride.
- The lower part of the trail is closed to protect nesting peregrines through July 15. An 8.3 mile, 1,500' elevation gain loop is possible starting July 16.
- A nice out-and-back to the Nancy Russell Overlook is 5 miles; 1000' elevation.
- Good flowers and Gorge views.
- **Can be very crowded on weekends.**
- Toilets; no parking pass required; dogs permitted on-leash.

# Washington. Trails between Cascade Locks and Hood River.

(Listed in order from west to east)

## Cascade Locks.

- Drive east one mile to Exit 56 Viento State Park. At the end of the exit ramp turn left under the highway; then left again onto the westbound entrance ramp.
  - 12 miles; 15 minutes to the **west**.
  - Take Exit 44 Cascade Locks which leads into the east end of town.
  - To reach the Bridge of the Gods drive through town to the west end.
  - Cross the Bridge of the Gods into Washington. \$2 fee.
  - Turn right onto WA-14.
- **Wind Mountain.**
    - 11 miles; 17 minutes from the Washington end of the Bridge of the Gods.
    - At 8.5 miles from the Bridge turn left onto Wind Mountain Road. In 1.4 miles turn right on Girl Scout Road; then go 0.2 miles to the pavement's end at a clearing. Park there. No permit required.
    - The hike to the top is 2.8 miles; 1,230' elev. gain.
    - Great Gorge views from the summit.
    - The summit has numerous "Vision Quest" Pits. Observe, but please do not disturb them and respect the sacred feelings of the native Americans for these pits.
  - **Dog Mountain.**
    - It is 3.0 miles; 6 minutes from the Washington end of Bridge of the Gods to Stevenson.
    - **Weekdays:** Continue another 9.5 miles; 13 minutes east from Stevenson to the Dog Mountain Trailhead. **Be advised that parking is limited and is very crowded even on weekdays in the peak flower season.** Parking requires a Northwest Forest Pass or America the Beautiful Pass.
    - The Dog Mountain/Augspuriger Loop Trail is 7.3 miles; 2,900' elev. gain.
    - Arguably the best displays of wildflowers in the Gorge – certainly the most popular!
    - **Hike permits**, are now required in addition to parking passes, on Saturday and Sunday. They are not available at the trailhead but may be purchased on-line in advance at: [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) . A limited number of these on-line permits are sold each Saturday and Sunday and they often sell out.

- **Saturdays and Sundays:** A better plan is to stop at the Skamania County Fairgrounds in Stevenson and board the shuttle to Dog Mountain. The shuttle costs \$1/person each way – which includes a free hiking permit! There is no limit to the number of hiking permits given to shuttle users. Dogs are permitted on the shuttle.
  
- **Dog Creek Falls.**
  - A beautiful and rarely-visited waterfall!
  - Just 2.0 miles; 4 minutes east of the Dog Mountain Trailhead near Milepost 56 on Hwy 14. Look for the sign and turn off into a parking area on the left (north) side of the highway.
  - The waterfall is just a short stroll up the path following the stream.

# Washington. Trails between the Hood River Bridge and The Dalles Bridge.

(listed in order from west to east)

## To the Hood River Bridge.

- 10 miles; 10 minutes to the **east**.
- Exit 65 Hood River, gives access to The Hood River Bridge and trails on the Washington side. \$1 fee.
- Cross the bridge and turn. Right on Hwy 14.
  
- **Coyote Wall.**
  - 4.6 miles; 9 minutes east of the Washington end of the Hood River Bridge.
  - Turn left on Courtney Road and then right to the trailhead for Coyote Wall.
  - **This trailhead and most of the Coyote Wall trails will be extremely crowded with mountain bikers on weekends.**
  - Variety of trail options; flowers and Gorge views. Begin by hiking east up the old road. Go left uphill and follow the trail along the edge of the cliff. Various return loops are possible.
  - No parking permit required. Dogs permitted on leash.
  
- **Catherine Creek.**
  - Turn left onto Old Hwy #8 in 5.8 miles; 15 minutes from the east end of the Hood River Bridge.
  - The trailhead is 1.5 miles ahead.
  - Multiple trail options on the north and south sides of the highway.
  - Great spring flowers.
  - No parking permit required. Dogs permitted on leash.
  
- **Lyle Cherry Orchard.**
  - 12 miles; 25 minutes from the Washington end of the Hood River Bridge.
  - Go east on Hwy 14. Trailhead on the left just past the second tunnel east of Lyle.
  - 5 miles; 1160' elevation; flowers and great Gorge views.
  - No parking permit required. Dogs permitted on-leash.

## Washington. Trails east of The Dalles Bridge.

### To The Dalles Bridge.

- 32 miles; 30 minutes to the east.
  - Exit 87 for US 197 Dufer/Bend.
  - Left to The Dalles Bridge and access to trails on the Washington side. No fee for crossing.
  - Drive north on US-197 for 3.4 miles to WA-14. Turn right.
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- **Dalles Mountain Ranch, Crawford Oaks Loop.**
    - 3.4 miles; 5 minutes from the junction of US-197 and WA-14.
    - Go east on Hwy 14 to Columbia Hills State Park – Crawford Oaks Trailhead.
    - Figure-8 loops. 9 miles; 1300' elevation (shorter options possible).
    - Great flowers and Gorge views.
    - Toilets; WA Discover Pass required.