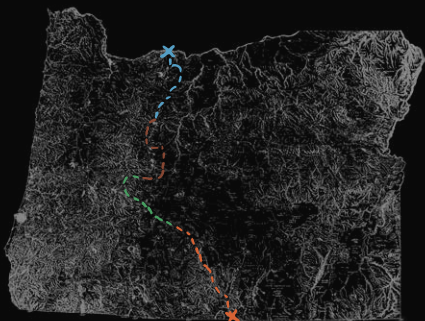


# OREGON TIMBER TRAIL

*Pioneer Year* 2017 ROUTE GUIDE



FREMONT TIER



WILLAMETTE TIER



DESCHUTES TIER



HOOD TIER

The Oregon Timber Trail is an iconic 670-mile backcountry mountain bike route spanning Oregon's diverse landscapes from California to the Columbia River Gorge.







# TABLE OF CONTENTS



- Overview** . . . . . 6
- By the numbers** . . . . . 12
- Logistics** . . . . . 18
  - Getting There . . . . . 19
  - Stay Connected . . . . . 19
  - Is this route for you? . . . . . 19
  - Group start or event . . . . . 19
  - Racing or Fastest Known Time . . . . . 20
  - Season & Climate . . . . . 20
  - Navigation and wayfinding . . . . . 21
  - Resupply & water . . . . . 22

- Camping and Lodging . . . . . 23
- Leave No Trace . . . . . 24
- Other trail users . . . . . 26
- A note about trails . . . . . 27
- Disclaimer . . . . . 27
- Springwater School Contribution . . . . . 27
  
- Fremont Tier** . . . . . 32
  - Segment 1 of 10 - Basin Range . . . . . 38
  - Segment 2 of 10 - Winter Rim . . . . . 40
  - Segment 3 of 10 - Mazama Blowout . . . . . 44
  
- Willamette Tier** . . . . . 46
  - Segment 4 of 10 - Kalapooya Country . . . . . 50
  - Segment 5 of 10 - Bunchgrass Ridge . . . . . 54
  
- Deschutes Tier** . . . . . 58
  - Segment 6 of 10 - Cascade Peaks . . . . . 62
  - Segment 7 of 10 - Santaim Wagon Road . . . . . 65
  
- Hood Tier** . . . . . 68
  - Segment 8 of 10 - Old Cascade Crest . . . . . 73
  - Segment 9 of 10 - Wy'East . . . . . 76
  - Segment 10 of 10 - The Gorge . . . . . 78
  
- Oregon Timber Trail Alliance** . . . . . 82





Kim and Sam, Oregon Timber Trail Pioneers. © Leslie Kehmeier

---

*The Oregon Timber Trail is an iconic 670-mile backcountry mountain bike route spanning Oregon's diverse landscapes from California to the Columbia River Gorge.*

---

The Oregon Timber Trail is a world-class bikepacking destination and North America's premiere long-distance mountain bike route. It runs south to north and travels through a variety of landscapes, communities, ecosystems, terrain, and, most importantly, mountain bike trails. Divided into four unique tiers, the Oregon Timber Trail is approachable by a wide variety of cyclists.

If it sounds familiar, you're not mistaken: the Oregon Timber Trail is inspired by the Pacific Crest Trail and other trails in the National Scenic Trail system. What sets it apart is that it's designed with mountain biking in mind and consists of more than 50 percent single-track.

2017 is the Oregon Timber Trail Pioneer Year. Up to this point only two intrepid adventurers—Sam Clark and Kim McCormack—have completed the rough and rugged almost 700-mile journey. We're excited to share the route and this guide with you to inspire and inform you to ride it this summer or in a subsequent year. We want you to have fun and be safe, so please read this guide carefully to understand the challenges you'll face.



Fremont Tier Stewardship Campout. © Gabriel Amadeus

The Oregon Timber Trail is a new, unrefined route and this guide is likely to be incorrect or lacking in some sections. As a bikepacker, be aware that change is inevitable and adaptability is the best skill you can take with you out on the trail. Stay in touch, we'd love to hear from you after the journey about your favorite areas, the hardest parts and what improvements you think could be made.

Start scheming, plan carefully, rope in some friends and have fun exploring the varied wild landscapes that have enthralled generations of Oregonians before you.

On behalf of the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance we sincerely hope you have a great season exploring the bounty of beauty that is Oregon.







Willamette National Forest. © Gabriel Amadeus

## SUMMARY

Riders depart the California border and start their journey north just outside of Lakeview—the highest town in Oregon. Within the first ten miles the route crests 8,000 feet and continues north along the Fremont National Recreation Trail through little-traveled basin and range country. The riding is rugged, dry singletrack and the grandiose vistas of faraway Mt Shasta, the Three Sisters, and the giant Fort Rock Basin are keen on distracting one’s eyes away from the trail. As the route meanders through loose volcanic blowout from the massive Mount Mazama eruption the landscape slowly begins to change. Lakes and streams start appearing, and then as you crest the spine of the Cascades at Timpanogas Lake the forests shift dramatically from dry tan open forests to dank green towering groves. You’ll follow the faint gurgling streams as they come together and merge into the Middle Fork of the Willamette River leading you to the mountain biking mecca of Oakridge. Roughly halfway, and one of the largest towns on the route, Oakridge is a great place to treat yourself to some cask ale at the Brewers Union Local 180, a clean bed and shower at one of the lodges, or even a day of unloaded shuttles on some of the legendary trails in the area.



Fort Rock Basin from Hager Mountain. © Gabriel Amadeus

Once well-fed and rested, you begin the ascent of Bunchgrass Ridge through majestic old growth groves and alpine beargrass meadows. Eventually you descend the slopes of Fuji Mountain, crossing the Cascades a second time, and enter the Deschutes Tier. These high cascade lakes and peaks are the work of relatively recent and dramatic volcanic activity that created a rocky, sandy, and dry alpine environment. After circling Mount Bachelor and camping in the shadow of the Three Sisters you descend into Sisters and cross over the range once again along the historic Santiam Wagon Road. Say goodbye to open ponderosa forests as you enter the rollercoaster of the Old Cascade Crest and Olallie Lakes exploring lush ridges, pocket lakes and roaring streams all dominated by Mount Jefferson looming to the east. The trails are steep, narrow and demanding. As you continue north, Mount Hood steals your attention away as Jefferson recedes behind you. The trails loop around lakes and old forest camps while slowly leading you up Gunsight Ridge, prepping you for your final descent along Surveyor’s Ridge and towards Hood River via Parkdale and the Post Canyon trail system. Dip your tires in the Columbia River, lay in the grass, and buy yourself a beer and burger—you just rode your mountain bike across the whole state.



Fremont Tier. © Gabriel Amadeus









**668**

*Miles*

**66,015'**

*Elv. gain*

**20-30**

*Days*

**FOUR**

*Tiers*

**TEN**

*Segments*

*Four unique tiers and  
landscapes*

*Diverse backcountry  
singletrack*

*Alpine lakes and quiet  
campsites*

*Countryside steeped in native  
legends and settler's lore*

*Old growth groves and vast  
prairies*

*Bubbling trout streams and  
herds of antelope*

*Historic pack routes and rowdy  
flow trails*

*Ghost towns and backwoods  
diners*



**51%**  
*Singletrack*

**15%**  
*4x4*

**25%**  
*Gravel*

**9%**  
*Paved*

## **NORTHBOUND**

*Recommended riding direction:  
Lakeview to Hood River*

**100 MILES**

*Longest stretch  
between resupply*

**45 MILES**

*Longest stretch between  
water sources*

**MOUNTAIN BIKE**

*with front suspension*

**MIN 2.25" KNOBBIES**

*recommended tire type*





**8/10**

*Average physical difficulty*

**7/10**

*Average technical difficulty*

**ADVANCED**

*Bikepacking challenge*

## **A NOTE ON RATINGS**

In this guide we've adopted the rating system developed by Bikepacking Roots, it consists of the three following scales: Physical Difficulty, Technical Difficulty, and Bikepacking Challenge. As more trail rehabilitation is done and more people ride the route, these ratings will likely change. Much of the route's alignment is still rather precarious, and the difficulty can vary greatly depending on rider skills, time of year, conditions, among other factors. If you've joined our 2017 Pioneer Program on [OregonTimberTrail.org](http://OregonTimberTrail.org) we'll be asking your opinion on the rating system and how to improve it.

### **PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY:**

*1-2 - Relatively level riding*

*3-4 - Regular rolling terrain with sustained climbing*

*5-6 - Rugged terrain with frequent climbs, some of which may be steep and unrelenting*

*7-8 - Very rugged terrain with abundant climbing, some of which is very steep and unrideable*

*9-10 - Numerous very steep, climbs requiring bike-pushing and/or carrying*

### **TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY:**

*1-2 - Smooth riding surface with few obstacles (e.g., graded dirt roads, rail trails); suitable for novice mountain bikers*

*3-4 - Track has occasional obstacles and steep sections (e.g., maintained forest roads, mellow singletrack); suitable for beginner mountain bikers*

*5-6 - Continuous sections of track may be rocky, loose, and steep; (e.g., 4x4 roads or singletrack in rugged/rocky terrain) suitable for intermediate mountain bikers*

*7-8 - Narrow trail with regular obstacles, sustained steep grades; suitable for intermediate to advanced mountain bikers*

*9-10 - Very challenging riding with frequent large obstacles, exposure, very steep grades; suitable for advanced mountain bikers*

### **BIKEPACKING CHALLENGE:**

*Beginner, Moderate, Advanced - This rating includes factors like distance between resupply locations and water resources, and how remote the route is. Routes with a greater degree of challenge will require more careful planning based on past bikepacking and backcountry experience; problems encountered on route will likely have greater consequences.*





# RIDING LOGISTICS

## GETTING THERE

The route can be ridden in either a northbound or southbound direction, though the alignment is designed with northbound travel in mind. Not only is there a net elevation loss, but getting to the California border is simpler at the beginning of your trip than the end.

The route begins about 20 miles south of Lakeview, Oregon on the California border. If you are coming from Portland, the Amtrak train runs to Klamath Falls which is roughly a 100-mile ride to Lakeview, or if you prefer to stay on dirt, use the suggested Klamath Falls start option on [OregonTimberTrail.org](http://OregonTimberTrail.org) to tie into the Oregon Timber Trail at Moss Pass (Mile 70).

Shuttle operators are also available to shuttle you to the southern end of the route:

*Zach's Bikes, Klamath Falls, Oregon*

*Bike Concierge, Oregon City, Oregon*

*Portland Sag Wagon, Portland, Oregon*

## STAY CONNECTED

Many changes, trail closures, weather alerts, and important information will likely arise. We'll try to post all important updates on [OregonTimberTrail.org](http://OregonTimberTrail.org) and in the associated email newsletter, but use the Facebook group "Oregon Timber Trail Riders" to communicate with other pioneer riders about current trail conditions and planning logistics.

## IS THIS ROUTE FOR YOU?

A route like the Oregon Timber Trail is unique and inspirational. Many people want to ride it, however, not everyone possesses the skill and experience required to ride it safely. You can ride it fast or slow, and make it easy or hard on yourself, but there is a baseline of experience that you should have before attempting the whole route. The Oregon Timber Trail is much more difficult than the Oregon Outback, the Great Divide Route, and the Baja Divide. The Oregon Timber Trail falls more in line with the likes of the Arizona Trail and the Colorado Trail. It is strenuous, technical, challenging, complicated and barely existent in some sections. Make sure you are prepared physically, mentally and technically. It's important not to let your ego get in the way if you end up over your head. Many easy bail options exist, and there's no shame in coming back to finish the job next year.

## GROUP START OR EVENT

There will be no official group event or mass start in 2017. While a mass start or group riding is fun and softens many barriers to riding a difficult bikepacking route, we've decided the sensitive trail and minimal resupplies cannot sustain a large group traveling the route together in 2017. The Oregon Timber Trail Alliance is putting considerable effort into trail stewardship and community outreach and hopes to support a group event in the future. 2017 is the year of pioneers—feel free to



band together with as many solid teammates as you'd like and enjoy the solitude of Oregon at your own pace.

## RACING OR FASTEST KNOWN TIME (FKT)

We ask that you do not try to race the event or try to set any speed records in the 2017 Pioneer Year. Ride it slow or ride it fast, but don't make speed the primary reason for riding the Oregon Timber Trail. You'll be traveling through areas that will be visually stunning and through communities that are not accustomed to people traveling through on bicycle. Say hi, share a story, buy them a beer, or ask where their favorite swimming hole is. We're all ambassadors of the Oregon Timber Trail and we want to leave a good, friendly, and respectful impression everywhere we go.

## SEASON AND CLIMATE

Mid July - Mid October. The 2017 season will be particularly short as the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance works to rehabilitate and clear neglected trails. In subsequent years

high-elevation snowpack will usually clear up by mid-June, but note that many backcountry trails may still be blocked by fallen trees that may not be removed until mid-late summer.

Most of the route is above 4,500 feet and parts will likely be under snow well into June. Snow flurries can begin to fall again as early mid October.

Expect freezing temperatures overnight at high elevation almost anytime of year, as well as heat during the day reaching 90° or higher.

The Fremont Tier will typically be the hottest and most sun exposed of the whole route, while the Willamette Tier will have the highest likelihood of precipitation.

The route is open to bikes during the summer months unless otherwise noted in the route guide, though nearby trails may have seasonal closures due to wildlife or safety concerns. Other temporary closures may occur for various reasons throughout the season, please adhere to any posted signage and check [OregonTimberTrail.org](http://OregonTimberTrail.org) for updates.



*Snowpack persists well into June © Dylan VanWeelden*



*Wayfinding can be a formidable challenge © Gabriel Amadeus*

## NAVIGATION AND WAYFINDING

The Oregon Timber Trail follows existing trails and road systems throughout the state. The surface, quality and signage of these roads and trails can vary dramatically. The route does not have signage anywhere indicating it as part of the Oregon Timber Trail. It is up to the rider to obtain detailed paper maps and GPS files before attempting a thru-ride or segment ride. The GPS and waypoint route files found on [OregonTimberTrail.org](http://OregonTimberTrail.org) are integral to successfully riding the OTT, as is this written route guide.

## ROUTE GUIDE

The route guide breaks down the Oregon Timber Trail into an overview, four tiers, and 10 segments. These are based on natural landscape changes and resupply points. The route guide

will serve as a long-form description of the route and what to expect in each area in terms of highlights, terrain, riding conditions, landscape, resupply, historical context, ecological sensitivities, seasonal closures, lodging and off-route opportunities.

## GPS FILE

The GPS track is your primary tool for navigation. The majority of the route has no cellular service, and having a navigation system that works offline is mandatory. The alignment of the Oregon Timber Trail is fluid and may change slightly year-to-year as barriers, or better alignments arise. You'll need to download the most current version from [OregonTimberTrail.org](http://OregonTimberTrail.org). In order to use the GPS track you'll need to upload it to a GPS device like a Garmin or a smartphone app. There's typically a bit of a learning curve with this process



and we suggest getting comfortable with the interfaces before venturing out on the Oregon Timber Trail. Since the Oregon Timber Trail is in its inaugural year, the GPS track is rough in some areas and may not be 100% accurate. Because of unknowns such as this, having paper maps or detailed topographical map files downloaded to your GPS device is essential.

## WAYPOINTS

Waypoints or POIs serve as key indicators of resupply points, good campsites, potential water sources, lodging, bike shops and other route highlights. These should be uploaded to your GPS device in addition to the track, and often include valuable notes about the resources and trail.

## DIGITAL WAYFINDING

There are many different types of GPS devices and mapping apps, all with varying features. Bikepacking.com and other websites detail how to use these tools not only to follow a route, but also to navigate in the backcountry and make complex, informed decisions. Make sure your device will stay charged, show you detailed topographic maps even while offline, and can display not only the route file, but also associated waypoints as well. Test

your navigation system and ensure you are familiar with its limitations before embarking on the Oregon Timber Trail.



Reliable water purification is essential throughout the route © Gabriel Amadeus

## PAPER MAPS

There is no one paper map or map publisher that covers the entire Oregon Timber Trail route. Maps such as the popular Gazetteer are all but useless for a route at this scale. That said, roughly 80 percent of the planning and wayfinding can be accomplished with the following maps:

*Adventure Maps: Oakridge, Bend, Mount Hood, Hood River*

*National Geographic Trails Maps: Three Sisters, Mount Jefferson, Mount Hood, Columbia River Gorge*

*Various US Forest Service Ranger District maps*

## RESUPPLY & WATER

Water sources on this route are limited, especially in the Fremont and Deschutes Tiers, and may dry up as summer progresses. Waypoints for these potential water sources are provided with labels like “poor” (unreliable, likely silty) and “good” (more reliable, cleaner water). DO NOT plan that every source will have water, and carry more water than you expect to need and have alternate plan. Carry a backup means of chemical water treatment like Aqua Mira or iodine. In areas where water is more prevalent (available roughly every 10 miles or more) water waypoints are not noted.

Food resupplies are also limited. To maintain the backcountry essence of the route, larger cities with full-service grocery stores are rare



Many lodging opportunities, developed campgrounds, and dispersed campsites exist © Gabriel Amadeus

and most resupply points will have minimal food choices and limited hours. Pack up your leftovers, carry dry, light meals, and figure out how to get creative with convenience store fare. Call ahead to stores if you have particular concerns or questions about services and hours.

## CAMPING AND LODGING

Many official National Forest campgrounds exist on the route. These vary in size and amenities but most campgrounds that are marked as waypoints will have vault toilets, sites, tables, fire rings and tent pads. Fees will vary, carry cash.

Unless otherwise marked, dispersed primitive camping is allowed anywhere on National Forest land.

We ask you to use sites that show signs of previous use instead of creating your own. Don't add fire rings or tables to dispersed sites, and pitch your tent and walk where vegetation is minimal.

Many Forest Service structures are marked on the map. Most require a reservation and will be occupied so please respect these guests' privacy and don't trespass without explicit permission.

There are many private lodging opportunities along the route ranging from rustic cabins to luxurious resorts. We try to note where these are located in this guide, but call ahead for reservations and lodging information.





# LEAVE NO TRACE

*The route travels through many fragile and pristine landscapes © Gabriel Amadeus*

### **Plan ahead and prepare.**

Check with land managers, local bike shops, local cycling groups and OregonTimberTrail.org for the most up-to-date trail information.

**Stick to the trail.** When biking, durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, dirt roads and pavement. The Oregon Timber Trail route travels through many sensitive and important ecosystems, stay on the trail and don't skid.

**Good campsites are found, not made.** Altering a site is not necessary. Protect ecologically sensitive areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. In popular areas concentrate use on existing trails and campsites. Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy. Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent. In pristine areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails. Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

### **Dispose of waste properly.**

Use restroom facilities where possible. Bring along a trowel and dig a cat hole six to eight inches deep at least 200 feet away from water sources and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

**Leave what you find.** Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts. Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them. Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

**Watch out for stowaways.** Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species. Seeds, vegetative matter, and mud can stick to your bike and clothing and

then fall off miles down the trail. This has the potential to introduce harmful plant species to fragile and vulnerable ecosystems. Shake out your clothes in camp each morning and keep your bike clean to prevent the spread of invasive species.

### **Minimize campfire impacts.**

Not only are burn bans prevalent throughout Oregon in the summer months, campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Check fire regulations before heading into the backcountry and where/when fires are permitted use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light. Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes. Burying fires does not extinguish them, it allows them to smolder and likely re-ignite. Never use fires to burn your trash.

**Respect wildlife.** Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them. Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors and exposes them to predators and other dangers. Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely. Control pets at all times, or leave them at home. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, nursing, or hibernation.

**Be considerate of other visitors.** Travel on designated bike trails. Respect land management by avoiding travel over trails where biking is prohibited. Respect other trail users and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering horses. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.





Respect other trail users and their experience © Gabriel Amadeus

## OTHER TRAIL USERS

The entirety of the Oregon Timber Trail route is multi-use. The route pieces together singletrack trails, motorized trails, historic pack routes, wagon roads, dirt roads, gravel roads, and even a few miles of quiet asphalt ribbons. The route was created with mountain biking in mind but expect to see equestrians, hunters, hikers, backpackers, Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) riders, motor vehicles and other trail users at any point. When on roads, follow all traffic laws and be aware that vehicle and OHV traffic may be present. Many areas are near active logging zones where fast-moving logging trucks won't be used to people on bikes.

The route is aligned on low-use backcountry trails and many different types of users can coexist with common sense and common courtesy. As a cyclist it is your responsibility to yield to all other

users on the trail: being polite and giving horses and hikers a clear path to pass is paramount to continued access for multi-use trails. Maintain line-of-sight and control of your bicycle. Slow and stop when nearing other users. Alert them to your presence with a simple hello. If you're traveling with a group it's courteous to say how many more riders are behind you as you meet another trail user.

Don't pass horses until you've stopped and the equestrian has acknowledged your presence and given you an indication it's safe to do so. If you're stopping to let horses by, it's much safer to step off the downhill side of the trail and let the rider pass. Remember, a smile and "good morning/afternoon" is the best tool in your toolkit as a bikepacker.

The Oregon Timber Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) cross

each other four times. Bikes are not allowed anywhere on the PCT, please respect these use-restrictions and make sure you continue on the Oregon Timber Trail route at these intersections. Or pitch camp nearby, and go on a day hike using the PCT to access nearby peaks and Wilderness areas.

## A NOTE ABOUT TRAILS

The Oregon Timber Trail is almost 700-miles long but only utilizes a fraction of the thousands of miles of trails we have here in Oregon. These trails require constant maintenance by dedicated volunteer trail groups in every area. If you want to give back to Oregon trails, each of the following organizations would love a donation or your boots on the ground at their next work party. A huge thanks to Klamath Trails Alliance, Backcountry Horsemen, Central Oregon Trail Alliance, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards, High Cascades Forest Volunteers, Disciples of Dirt, Salem Area Trail Alliance, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Bend Trails, Sisters Trails Alliance, Trans-Cascadia, Northwest Trail Alliance, 44 Trails Association, and Hood River Area Trail Stewards.

In addition to the thousands of volunteer hours invested, none of these trail systems would be possible without the land management support from the Lakeview, Paisley, Silver Lake, and Chemult Fremont-Winema National Forest Ranger Districts; the Middle Fork, Sweet Home, McKenzie River, and Detroit Ranger Districts of the Willamette National Forest; the Chemult, Bend,

and Sisters Ranger Districts of the Deschutes National Forest; and the Clackamas, Zigzag, Barlow, and Hood River Ranger Districts of the Mount Hood National Forest.

## DISCLAIMER

The content of this guide is purely for informational purposes and is intended as a reference guide. The authors and everyone involved in the creation of this guide make no warranty of correctness or thoroughness and disclaim any and all liability from its use.



© Gabriel Amadeus

## SPRINGWATER SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

Throughout this document you'll find snippets of geologic and cultural history researched and written by the seventh and eighth grade students at Springwater Environmental Studies School. These student spent 6 weeks studying the length of the Oregon Timber Trail and choosing areas of study. The breadth of geologic information and cultural history they unearthed is impressive—we hope you enjoy their contributions as much as we have.





# THE ROUTE

The Oregon Timber Trail is naturally divided into four tiers based on the type of forests and landscapes it travels through, and subsequently the four National Forests it passes through. To make the 670 miles and four tiers even more digestible the route is broken into 10 segments. These are defined by major re-supply or geographic points.





**205**  
MILES



## FREMONT TIER

**19k'**  
ELV GAIN

*Lakeview to Chemult. Traverse Basin and range country along Winter Rim and through the vast Oregon Outback.*

### **BASIN AND RANGE - 88 MILES**

Lily Lake to the Chewaucan Valley

### **WINTER RIM - 65 MILES**

Chewaucan Valley to Silver Lake

### **MAZAMA BLOWOUT - 50 MILES**

Silver Lake to Chemult



**125**  
MILES



## DESCHUTES TIER

**10k'**  
ELV GAIN

*Cascade Lakes to Santiam Pass. Violent volcanic geology, historic wagon roads, alpine lakes, and mountain views.*

### **CASCADE PEAKS - 90 MILES**

Waldo Lake to Sisters

### **SANTIAM WAGON ROAD - 35 MILES**

Sisters to Fish Lake



**152**  
MILES



## WILLAMETTE TIER

**13k'**  
ELV GAIN

*Timpanogas to Waldo Lake via Oakridge. Legendary trail systems, lush green forests, and roaring rivers.*

### **KALAPUYA COUNTRY - 92 MILES**

Chemult to Oakridge

### **BUNCHGRASS RIDGE - 60 MILES**

Oakridge to Waldo Lake



**192**  
MILES



## HOOD TIER

**24k'**  
ELV GAIN

*Santiam Pass to Hood River. Forest camps, hot springs, Mt. Hood, and the Columbia River Gorge.*

### **OLD CASCADE CREST- 72 MILES**

Fish Lake to Olallie Lake

### **WY'EASt - 90 MILES**

Olallie Lake to Parkdale

### **THE GORGE - 30 MILES**

Parkdale to Hood River





# FREMONT TIER



## Lakeview to Chemult

**201 MILES**  
**19,181 FEET**  
**6-10 DAYS**

The Oregon Timber Trail aptly starts in the middle of nowhere on the California border. You'll leave Oregon's highest town and traverse the 150 mile Fremont National Recreation Trail. You'll be rewarded with the stunning views from Winter Rim, a feast at the legendary Cowboy Dinner Tree, and have the opportunity to stay at a number of primitive fire lookouts.

The Fremont Tier is one of the most challenging Tiers but also one of the most rewarding. Services are few and far between but the landscapes you'll pass through are unparalleled in the state. 15,000 years ago, much of the low basin range country and alkali lakes were part of a giant inland sea teeming with wildlife. North America's first settlers lived on the shores of this vast body of

water, living off the cornucopia of aquatic life.

Today the sea has dried up and its floor dried out. The mountains are buried in snow each winter, feeding the gurgling small rivers and streams that meander out into what is now ranchland.

You'll crest the highest point of the whole route at 8,200 feet shortly



# FREMONT TIER



Summer Lake Hot Springs © Gabriel Amadeus

**10% Paved**

**32% Dirt road**

**58% Singletrack**

Percent rideable:  
**Unknown**

Physical difficulty:  
**9/10**

Technical difficulty:  
**7/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**95 miles, 3-4 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**45 miles, 2 days**

after starting and continue along ridgelines of ponderosas, rock and dry grassland. Nearby peaks offer rentable fire lookouts like Drake Peak, Currier Guard Station, Bald Butte, Fremont Point and Hager Mountain. The valleys are punctuated by trout streams, bird life, and even some relaxing hot springs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Lily and Cave Lake - The southern tip of the route begins at these two idyllic alpine lakes*

*Crane Mountain - The highest elevation on the OTT at 8,200 feet*

*Fremont National Recreation Trail - a lightly-used and stunningly scenic trail spanning south-central Oregon*

*Round Mountain - Open ridgeline riding with views of prehistoric lake beds and Gearhart Mountain*

## Klamath Falls Caves by Sawyer

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

The many Oregon caves in this area are actually one connected cave and is almost 1600 feet long and carved out of marble. They were formed by water dripping down from the above forest and carving out marble to create the cave system. The Klamath hills are a large isolated fault block about 10 miles south of Klamath falls. This means the area is isolated from the large tectonic plate close to it, similar to an island in the middle of the ocean. The block has Basalt flows associated Breccia, Scoria and Cinder Predominate. The Klamath hills have Olivine Basalt, Lacustrine and Fluvial sedimentary rocks, and Basalt. These rocks are from the Pliocene (13 MYA), Miocene (25 MYA), and Pleistocene (.5 MYA) eras. Crescent Lake, a lake near the area is on the eastern side of the Cascades.

*Chewaucan Valley - A small vivacious trout stream draining from the forests of the Fremont National Forest*

*Winter Rim - A 3,000 foot east-facing escarpment with a stunning rim trail*

*Summer Lake Hot Springs - Relax in the warm mineral waters and historic ranch buildings*

## Klamath Falls History by Sawyer

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Klamath Falls is a city in the lower part of Oregon with a population of over 21,000. Although It is one of the largest cities in the area it has a very interesting and unique history. George Nurse lived in New York in the 1860s but moved to Oregon for the gold rush. After giving up on the prospect of gold, Nurse began working to supply hay for a Klamath military post. However the post became a trading post between the Klamath Native Americans and the soldiers in 1867. The post had become very well known and used with trade of gold, fur and fish from the nearby Willamette river. Many europeans settlers and people traveling to the gold rush settled in the area. The city was formally established on October, 17, 1882 and was called Linkville but was elected to be changed to be called Klamath Falls after the native tribe in 1884.

*Cowboy Dinner Tree - Legendary backwoods diner*

*Silver Lake resupply - Quiet plains town of Silver Lake for supplies*

*Rentable forest service lookouts - Reserve a night or two at one of six Forest Service cabins and lookouts near the route.*





Moss Pass © Leslie Kehmeier

## LOGISTICS

Getting to the southern terminus can be somewhat of a hurdle (see the “Getting There” section at the beginning of this guide).

The Fremont Tier is certainly the most remote of the whole Timber Trail. Trails may difficult to navigate and daily mileage may be slower than anticipated. This, combined with the minimal resupply points, means riders should be extra judicious when meal and water planning. The first 90 miles are remote and without services. There will be only two obvious bail points.

There are several long (~50 mile) sections without water, and the existing water sources are small intermittent springs. The quality and reliability of these are unknown. Check OregonTimberTrail.org for more current updates throughout the season.

The only supply points are in Lakeview, Paisley (7 miles off route at mile 89), Silver Lake (Mile 150), and Chemult (Mile 200).

### Drake Peak- Inter Ridge Segment by VanE

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

At the start of the Winter Ridge Segment, just east of where you will be riding, is Drake Peak, a fault block mountain. At an elevation of 8,407, you should be able to see it while you’re riding. As the mountain type name implies, this peak was formed basaltic fault blocks being pushed upward by activity in the Earth’s mantle approximately 23 million years ago. All the rocks that can be found here, are also about that age, and part of the “Drake Peak” geologic assemblage. The rocks included in this assemblage are: Basalt, Andesite, Dacite, Rhyolite, and Olivine Basalt. Some water bodies found near Drake Peak are Lake Abert, Mill Lake, Mud Creek, and Lillie Lake.

## NEAREST MEDICAL FACILITIES

Lake Health District - 700 S. J St. | Lakeview, OR 97630 | (541) 947-2114

Sky Lakes Medical Center - 2865 Daggett Ave. | Klamath Falls, OR 97601 | (541) 882-6311

St. Charles Medical Center - 2500 NE Neff Road | Bend, OR 97701 | (541) 382-4321

Due to beetle kill and fires, many trees have fallen, blocking several segments of the the Fremont Tier. Be ready to re-route and create your own detours near Indian Ridge

## TRAIL & FOREST INFO

Fremont–Winema National Forest - (541) 947-2151

## RECOMMENDED MAPS

USGS Topographical Quadrants available at USGS.gov

Fremont-Winema/Upper Klamath Basin - 1/2”, 2006

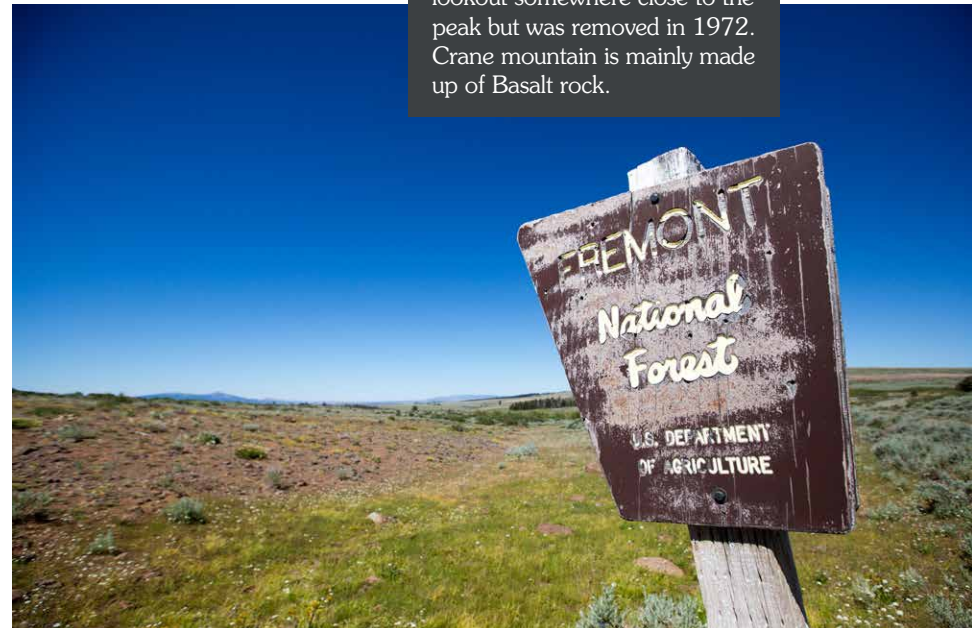
## BIKE SHOPS

Zach’s Bikes, Klamath Falls, OR - (541) 851-9200

### Crane Mountain by Grant

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Crane mountain is in south central Oregon. It is a part of the Warner Mountain Range. It is also a part of the Fremont Winema National Forest. The US Forest Service has a fire lookout somewhere close to the peak but was removed in 1972. Crane mountain is mainly made up of Basalt rock.



Fremont National Forest © Leslie Kehmeier





Goose Lake from Crane Mountain © Leslie Kehmeier

Segment length:  
**88 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+11,679 feet**

Number of days: **3-4**

**9% Paved**

**15% Dirt road**

**76% Singletrack**

Percent Rideable:  
**Unknown**

Physical difficulty:  
**9/10**

Technical difficulty:  
**6/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**95 miles , 3-4 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**45 miles , 2 days**

## SEGMENT 1 OF 10 **BASIN AND RANGE**

Lily Lake to the Chewaucan Valley

### RESUPPLIES

*Mile 0: Lakeview (before starting) - Full services, Safeway*

*Mile 90: Paisley (7 miles off route) - Limited services, Paisley Mercantile, Pioneer Saloon, Homestead Cafe*

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

*Mile 0 - Honker Inn Lodge*

*Mile 26 - Squirrelville lodge*

*Mile 63 - Willow Springs Guest Ranch*

*Mile 90 - Paisley Sage Rooms*

The Oregon Timber Trail and the Fremont Tier begin high up in the Warner Mountains quite near the tri-state corner of California, Nevada and Oregon. You'll crest 8,300 feet in the first 15 miles—the highest point on the whole route as you work your way north along exposed, rocky ridgelines. Mount Shasta will be viewable in the distance across vast plains and valleys to the south, and the snowy tips of the Three

Sisters to the north will start poking from the horizon. The Basin and Range segment deals a healthy dose of ups and downs giving riders an appreciation for the geologic forces that shaped this landscape. It also lends a glimpse into Oregon's rich ranching history and how settlers and modern farmers manifest their livelihood.

The forest here is dry, high elevation and sparse. Be on the lookout for migrating birds, deer and pronghorn antelope. Groves of quaking aspen line seasonal streams and ring freshwater springs. Ponderosa stands grace the flanks of ridgelines and deposit thick needle beds on the forest floor.

Leaving the southern tip at Lily Lake the route climbs for about three miles on forest roads before turning into faint trail rolling up and down over Crane Mountain. The first semi-reliable water source, Camas Creek, lies at mile 27 but if

### Basin and Range by Grant *Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

At the very start of the trail there are two lakes on either side. One is Cave Lake and the other is Lily Lake. These lakes were formed by runoff from Crane Mountain. Towards the end of the 9th miles there is a mountain. Crane Mountain is in South Central Oregon. It is a part of the Warner Mountain Range. It is also a part of the Fremont Winema National Forest. Crane mountain is mainly made up of Basalt Rock.

### Drake Peak by Madison *Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

This is where Drake Peak is located, as well as a beautiful part of this trail. Drake Peak was formed by a rhyolite disruption. The Rhyolite disruption was created when a previous Rhyolite formation was destroyed by ground movements. Drake peak holds many types of rocks such as, Basalt, Andesite, Dacite, Rhyolite, Olivine Basalt from the Miocene. Drake Peak is 8,222 feet elevated. And from the top you can see Oregon, and both California and Nevada.

you detour to the east off of Crane Mountain at mile 12 on NF4011, Willow Creek Campground is a nice primitive campground with vault toilets and a mountain stream. Rejoin the route by following NF3915 to Rogger Meadows. At mile 26, just before crossing the Warner Highway there's the rustic Squirrelville Lodge, available to rent.

After crossing Warner Highway and a short climb you can choose to stay on the ridge route or detour towards Bull Prairie and Drake Peak. A few miles off the route on NF3615 you'll find Mud Spring Campground with potable water and toilets. Nearby is the rentable Aspen Cabin; or the really adventurous can climb to Drake Peak Lookout (rent in advance). From here, follow Crooked Creek for a 7 mile descent back to relative civilization on Highway 395. Don't forget to fill up on water before you leave Crooked Creek, the next reliable water is a long 45-miles at the Chewaucan River.

Ride south for about 3 miles on Highway 395, and then turn north



once again and climb to reach Cox Pass Trailhead, Moss Pass, Round Mountain and the spectacular ridgeline to Morgan Butte. At mile 63 there's an optional detour to Willow Springs Guest Ranch and a potential spring at the abandoned Counts Ranch. A final 10 mile scenic descent off Morgan Butte drops you at the Chewaucan River

and the end of the Basin and Range segment. A short, flat 7-miles away lies the first resupply on the route: Paisley. A lively tavern, diner, coffee stand and small grocery store offer up good conversation and warm meals. The city hosts a Mosquito Festival on the last weekend of July, so plan your trip accordingly!



Winter Rim at Currier Springs © Gabriel Amadeus

## SEGMENT 2 OF 10

# WINTER RIM

Chewaucan Valley to Silver Lake

## RESUPPLIES

Mile 90: Paisley (7 miles off route) - Limited services: Paisley Mercantile, Pioneer Saloon, Homestead Cafe

Mile 145: Cowboy Dinner Tree (reservations required)

Mile 150: Silver Lake - Limited services: Silver Lake Mercantile & Motel, Silver Lake Café and Bar

Segment length:  
**62 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+5,258 feet**

Number of days: **2-4**

**14%** Paved

**6%** Dirt road

**80%** Singletrack

Percent rideable:  
**Unknown**

Physical difficulty: **9/10**

Technical difficulty: **8/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**69 miles , 2-4 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**45 miles , 2-3 days**

## COMMERCIAL LODGING

Mile 90 - Paisley Sage Rooms

Mile 145 - Cowboy Dinner Tree Cabins

Mile 150 - Silver Lake Motel

Winter Rim is the gem of the Fremont Tier. The Fremont National Recreation Trail follows the edge of the dramatic rim as it drops 3,000 feet to the Summer Lake Valley below. General John C. Fremont wrote of the landmark in his journal, and subsequently named it on his expedition through the state over 150 years ago.

But Fremont's discovery of the area is quite tardy when put in context—the oldest DNA evidence of human habitation in North America was

found in that same Summer Lake Basin where early generations of the first Americans camped in caves on the shores of a giant inland sea some 14,300 years ago.

Distinct north-south topographic features such as Winter Rim serve as important routes for migrating birds. And indeed, with the Klamath basin, Sycan Marsh, and Malheur Marshes to the west and east Winter Rim lies smack dab in the midst of a migrant bird mecca. Keep your eyes on the sky looking for waterfowl, golden eagles, hawks and even owls and accipiters in the open pine forests.

The Fremont National Recreation Trail follows a scenic path along the rim and through the forest. It's only 62 miles, but it's a rugged segment, expect to detour and wayfind

*“At our feet—more than a thousand feet[sic] below—we looked into a green prairie country, in which a beautiful lake, some twenty miles in length, was spread along the foot of the mountains, its shores bordered with green grass. Just then the sun broke out among the clouds, and illuminated the country below; while around us the storm raged fiercely.”*

Captain John C. Fremont's expedition on Winter Rim.  
December 16th, 1844



frequently along Winter Rim. As you leave the Chewaucan River and begin the Winter Rim segment water sources will become quite scarce and no food resupply will be available until Silver Lake.

*DETOUR NOTE: Consider detouring through Paisley, north along Highway 31 to Summer Lake Hot Springs, and then up the face of Winter Rim on NF29 to Government Harvey Pass where you can rejoin the Oregon Timber Trail route. At the north end of*



Summer Lake Hot Springs © Gabriel Amadeus

*Winter Rim, Dead Indian Rim is a section currently quite impassable, consider detouring off the Fremont National Recreation Trail onto NF2914*

*towards Hager Mountain and Farm Well Trailhead.*

If you choose to adhere to the official Oregon Timber Trail route you'll leave the Chewaucan Valley steeply at first, then gradually gain 2,500 feet over 10 miles as you climb to Government Harvey Pass and Winter Rim along the Bear Creek drainage. A very important water resupply is at Currier Spring (Mile 104) with a slight detour to the west. Currier Spring is the only reliable water source on the Winter Rim segment, a distance of 62 miles between the Chewaucan River and Silver Lake.

The next twelve miles may be some of the most scenic—and frustratingly slow—on the whole route. The

Fremont National Recreation Trail follows the rim to Fremont Point and beyond, but is difficult and ponderous to follow. Most of the downed trees have been cut out by Oregon Timber Trail Alliance stewardship crews, but the trail is overgrown and wayfinding done by following large cairns. The trail consists of large chunky babyheads, making forward progress slower

### **General John Charles Fremont by Madison**

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

General John Charles Fremont died the fifth territorial governor of Arizona. But while he was living he was a U.S Senator, American military officer and explorer. He was released from his duty by president Lincoln for insubordination, he had freed the slaves in his district without consent from the U.S government. The first candidate of the anti-slavery Republican Party carrying most of the north was General John. He went on few major expeditions, but his second was through Oregon and reaching areas. His self assigned mission was to redesign and redescribe the Oregon trails maps. He and his team mapped the Great Salt Lake, Snake River, Columbia River, Mount St. Helens, Fort Vancouver, Mt. Hood, the Cascade Range and Lake Tahoe. Congress later released his "report and map" to the public. It guided thousands of outlanders to Oregon and California.

than expected. This entire area is in a period of rejuvenation, tread lightly and be aware of the new sensitive growth reestablishing itself after the fire.

Fremont Point hosts a reservable cabin, toilet, and small picnic area. And, of course, views of a huge swath of southeastern Oregon. After another eight miles of meandering along the rim, the Fremont National Recreation Trail veers westward away from Summer Lake and gradually descends to Farm Wells Campground, eleven miles away. Before segment two is finished, you

### **Hager Mountain By Oliver**

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

The geology near Hager Mountain is quite different than the geology directly surrounding Summer Lake. Instead of an arid desert is more mountainous with a lot of buttes and other mountains such as Yamsay though that is further west than Hager Mountain. There are also a lot of lakes there are 7 including a reservoir. One of the largest geologic features there is Hager Mountain, Hager Mountain is a large silicic lava dome structure. It's rock primarily came from the Hayes Butte basalt flows 6 million years ago. The area consists of multiple types of rocks including Andesitic Rocks such as qtp which is a basaltic and andesitic ejecta, and tvs which is Silicic Vent deposits that also primarily makes up Hager Mountain.



Cowboy Dinner Tree © Gabriel Amadeus

climb again, up the flank of Hager Mountain and down to NF28.

You can detour up to the peak of Hager Mountain (7,200 feet) at mile 138.5 for some spectacular 360° views and a reservable fire lookout. Once you hit NF 28 Silver Lake's small store is a fast nine (paved) miles away, but don't forget to make reservations at Cowboy Dinner Tree outside of town—their 30oz steak dinners are legendary.

### **Lake Abert and Summer Lake by Ryder**

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Lake Abert and Summer Lake were one big lake called Chaucan Lake that extended across Winter Ridge. Abert Lake is the only salt water lake in Oregon. Abert Lake is now drying up for unknown reasons which is driving away thousands of migratory birds and killing brine shrimp, which are the only creatures that can tolerate its severely salty water. Scientists first thought it was shrinking because of the big drought in Oregon but it wasn't. All the other lakes in the area are also drying up. The rock types in the area are Olivine Basalt, Cndisite, and Costal Terrain.





Night sky © Leslie Kehmeier

## SEGMENT 3 OF 10 **MAZAMA BLOWOUT** Silver Lake to Chemult

### RESUPPLIES

Mile 150: Silver Lake - Limited services: Silver Lake Mercantile & Motel, Silver Lake Café and Bar

Mile 201: Chemult - Full services: several large gas stations and markets

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

Mile 150 - Silver Lake Motel

Mile 201: Chemult - Several motels and lodges

This Mazama Blowout segment is a welcome relief after the steep, rugged terrain of the Fremont National Recreation Trail. It leaves a resupply in Silver Lake and follows flat, dusty pumice roads through the sparse Winema Forest to the Fremont Tier's terminus in Chemult.

The most distinct change in landscape you'll notice here is the prevalent red rock lining the roads and forest floor. These millions of acres of pumice scattered through

Segment length:  
**51 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+2,100 feet**

Number of days: **1-2**

**6%** Paved

**94%** Dirt road

**0%** Singletrack

**100%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **3/10**

Technical difficulty: **3/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Intermediate**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**51 miles, 1-2 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**40 miles, 1-2 days**

the forest used to lay deep under the earth where Crater Lake now sits. About 7,700 years ago Mount Mazama blew up and the resulting debris field covered a huge swath of central Oregon. Today it's covered in giant ponderosas and a network of quiet red roads.

This segment is probably the easiest riding on the entire Oregon Timber Trail. It doesn't feature any singletrack or epic vistas, but

serves as an important connector between the Fremont Tier and the Willamette Tier. It leaves the Silver Lake basin and climbs gradually on mellow sand and gravel roads. The forest is open and sparse, providing many good dispersed camping options. Surveyor Spring (Mile 186) is a decent campsite and may have some water, but for the most part, water is scarce after a few creek crossings just outside of Silver Lake.

The ambitious rider may want to get breakfast at the store in Silver Lake and knock out the full segment to Chemult in one day where you can rent a hotel room, or grab some cold beverages and relax at Walt Haring Campground less than a mile out of town.

### Gilchrist Oregon by Wyatt *Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Gilchrist Oregon is a small logging town less than twenty miles from Crescent Lake. The town was founded in 1938 by the Gilchrist Timber Company. Around the mill homes for about 500 residents were built and painted Gilchrist Brown. In 1991 the company was sold to the Crown Pacific Partners, however, in 2003 the Crown Pacific Partners declared bankruptcy. This small town features a restaurant with a historic bowling alley and a beautiful old fashioned movie theater. This is also a fantastic place for snowmobiling, cross country skiing, hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and hunting.

### The Hole in the Ground by Evan

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

The Hole in the Ground is a giant crater. It looks like it was created by a meteor but it was actually created by steam coming out of the ground causing the displacement of sediment. When it happened, the steam flung rocks as big as 26 feet in size. The scientists studying the crater know it wasn't created by a meteor because there weren't metal shards that appear in meteor craters. Some people assume craters are made by meteors but a crater is just a bowl shaped cavity in the ground. It is 300-450 feet deep and roughly 1 mile wide.

### Mazama Geology by Stella *Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Buck Creek is a stand alone creek that does not connect to anything. This creek could have been created by a spring, or created by runoff from the mountain and is in the High Desert. The different types of rocks that can be found in this area are: Lacustrine and fluvial sedimentary rocks (1.8 mya), Olivine Basalt (5.333 mya), Rhyolite and dacite (5.333 mya), and Mafic and Intermediate vent rocks (5.333 mya). Buck Creek has its own small waterfall which is the source of white salmon's water supply.





# WILLAMETTE TIER



*Chemult to Waldo  
Lake via Oakridge*

**148 MILES**  
**13,286 FEET**  
**4-6 DAYS**

The Willamette Tier is markedly different from the Fremont Tier. The dry deserts, sparse ponderosa forests and wide open rangeland give way to dark, verdant and loamy forests as soon as you crest the Cascade Range. You'll follow feeder streams and springs of the Willamette River's Middle Fork for much of this tier, putting your water scarcity worries at ease—at least for now.

Oakridge, one of the largest towns on the whole route, is a good halfway point to take a rest day, enjoy the pub, dip your feet in the river or hire a shuttle to take you unloaded to the top of one of the many world-famous Oakridge trails. If shuttling isn't your thing, there are still a multitude of opportunities to ditch your bags at camp and ride some unloaded singletrack runs

of Moon Point, Larison Rock or Alpine.

Once you've had your fill of rest and relaxation, you'll climb the infamous Bunchgrass Ridge through glorious stands of old growth Douglas fir and sun-drenched alpine meadows. The tier rounds up with a descent down the slopes of Fuji Mountain and a lap around the bucolic shores of Waldo Lake.



# WILLAMETTE TIER



Crumbling old growth © Gabriel Amadeus

**7%** Paved

**40%** Dirt road

**53%** Singletrack

Percent rideable:  
**95%**

Physical difficulty:  
**8/10**

Technical difficulty:  
**7/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between  
resupply:  
**92 miles. 2-3 days**

Longest stretch between  
water sources:  
**15 miles, 1 day**

## RECOMMENDED MAPS

*USGS Topographical Quadrants  
available at [USGS.gov](https://www.usgs.gov)*

*Crescent Ranger District (2000) -  
Deschutes NF*

*Middle Fork Ranger District (2013) -  
Willamette NF*

*Adventure Maps, Oakridge, Oregon  
Trail Map*

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Summit and Timpanogas Lake -  
Gorgeous peak-rimmed alpine lakes  
perfect for pitching camp*

*Windy Ridge - An optional loop  
along ridges around Timpanogas  
Lake, this trail is one of the most  
stunning and unique in the state*

*Middle Fork Trail - A long, arduous  
classic following the Middle Fork of  
the Willamette River over a variety  
of terrain*

*Oakridge - A sleepy little logging  
town with a chance to go rafting,  
fishing, hire some shuttles, soak  
in some hot springs, or just stay in  
town and enjoy some R&R at the  
brewery and distillery*

*Bunchgrass Ridge - A backcountry  
epic up and over the Cascades a  
second time*

*Waldo Lake - A large bucolic lake,  
perfect for spending a summer day*

## LOGISTICS

The only resupply point is Oakridge,  
roughly in the middle of this tier.  
That said, Oakridge has everything  
you'd need, and there is plenty of  
water available throughout the entire  
Willamette Tier.

Both Bunchgrass and the Middle  
Fork trails are remote, backcountry  
trails where bail options are limited.

This tier is heavily forested and  
receives a substantial amount of  
snowfall and windstorms each year.  
This leads to a lot of big timber  
falling and blocking the trails that  
may not get cleared until late  
summer. Be prepared to lift your  
bike and navigate around these  
formidable obstacles. (Or, ahem,  
volunteer at one of the Oregon  
Timber Trail Alliance's stewardship  
events.)

## TRAIL & FOREST INFO

Middle Fork Ranger Station -  
Willamette National Forest - (541)  
782-2283

## BIKE SHOPS

Willamette Mountain Mercantile,  
Oakridge, OR - (541) 782-1800

## NEAREST MEDICAL FACILITIES

St. Charles Medical Center - 2500  
NE Neff Road | Bend, OR 97701  
| (541) 382-4321

PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical  
Center University - 1255 Hilyard  
St. | Eugene, OR 97401 | (541)  
686-7300

**Middle Fork Geology  
Mile:260-270 by Chayndler**  
*Springwater Environmental Sciences  
School*

These are some facts about  
Oregon's Middle Fork. When  
Crescent Lake was created,  
glaciers cut through valleys and  
landslides opened pathways  
for water to flow in. Lakes  
filled in a basin after it was  
carved out by a glacier to  
create Odell Butte. Summit  
Lake was originally formed by  
a landslide, but it went through  
many destructive phases  
that changed its appearance  
called geomorphic changes.  
The Cascades were formed  
when heated magma shot up  
from the ground after years  
of built tension. Most of the  
rocks in the area are volcanic,  
like Volcanic-Miocene and  
Volcanic clastic Rock. Almost  
all of the Middle Fork was  
created by some destruction or  
geomorphic changes.





Sun dappled undergrowth © Gabriel Amadeus

## SEGMENT 4 OF 10 KALAPOOYA COUNTRY

Chemult to Oakridge

### RESUPPLIES

*Mile 201: Chemult - Full services: several large gas stations and markets*

*Mile 293: Oakridge - Full services: Ray's Grocery, Willamette Mercantile (Bike Shop), Brewer's Union Local 180, many small markets, stores, and restaurants.*

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

*Mile 201: Chemult - Several motels and lodges*

*Mile 288: Double Diamond Lodge*

*Mile 293: Oakridge - Oakridge Lodge and Guest House, Westfir Lodge (off route), several motels*

Segment length:  
**92 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+4,157 feet**

Number of days: **2-3**

**7%** Paved

**50%** Dirt road

**43%** Singletrack

**95%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **5/10**

Technical difficulty: **7/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Intermediate**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**92 miles, 2-3 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**Frequent natural water sources**

The Kalapooya Country segment is stunning in its shift from the dry eastern slopes of the Cascades to the lush, thick stands of cedars and firs on the west side and down the Willamette River's Middle Fork watershed. You'll experience serene mountain lakes, technical singletrack descents, and lay on the banks of natural springs bubbling from the forest floor. The segment finishes with a long flat pedal along the shores of Hill Creek Reservoir before ending in Oakridge, a great stop for a resupply and a rest day or two.

The lakes and streams of the Middle Fork have ample native trout populations and keep your eyes open for dippers feeding in the stream or even a shy black bear or bobcat. The forests here are some of the most dramatic on the whole route. You'll travel through alpine lakes, and down through dense jungles of giant twisted cedars, hemlocks, and Douglas fir that allow only a rare beam of sunlight all the way to the forest floor. At times you'll burst into sunny meadows, or fire-burned slopes. Take small detours and enjoy the springs and their miniature ecosystems. Watch as the grade mellows, the river slows down, and the forest transitions to sunlight dappled alder and poplar glades.

The first 30 miles of segment 4 and the Willamette Tier are relatively flat and easy gravel roads, slowly working their way deeper into the Cascade Lakes region. Water is still a scarce commodity here, but streams become more prevalent as you near Crescent Lake. At mile 230 you veer off the forest roads

### Kalapooya Tribe by Chandylar

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

The Kalapooya tribe lives in the Middle fork, but they are very nomadic so you will be very lucky to see one. Most of the tribe was wiped out by a plague that took them from a population of 12,000 people to 600 people. This is another reason it would be lucky to see a member of the tribe. They liked the coast range and cascade mountains especially. The area they lived at depended on the climate. If it was Summer then they were in a open area where it was not cramped and in winter there homes tended to be more small and compact to reserve body heat. They aren't very friendly



Windy Lakes © Gabriel Amadeus



towards the little known Windy Lakes area and one of only two singletrack trails that cross the the Cascades in all of Oregon. After a steep 1,200 foot climb, spend one more night on the east side at the several dispersed campsites at the



Timpanogas Lake © Gabriel Amadeus

Windy Lakes or continue on towards Summit and Timpanogas Lake. You'll enjoy a mossy descent from Windy Lakes to Summit Lake and a pleasant pedal around its shores on a jeep road before connecting to Timpanogas Lake and the Middle Fork Trailhead.



Bear grass in bloom © Leslie Kehmeier

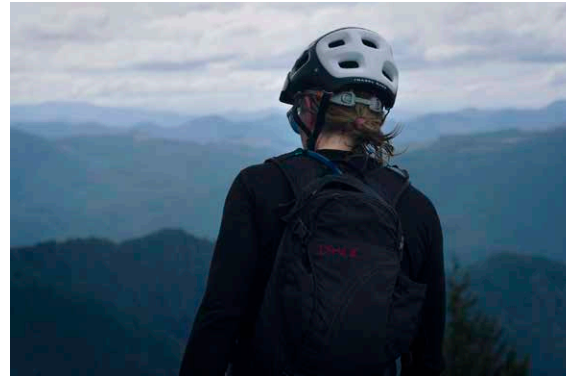
Timpanogas is a great basecamp with toilets, potable water, and access to an optional (and highly recommended) loop around Windy Ridge. Be warned: the mosquitos of Timpanogas can be overwhelming during the mid summer months. There's a rentable log shelter on its western shore maintained by the local snowmobile club.

Once you've had your fill of the surrounding trails and ridgelines start your long descent towards Oakridge. It's almost 30 miles of descending and 20 flat miles to finish it off. Don't be deceived however—it's a very exhausting 30 miles. Don't miss Chuckle Springs, Sacondaga Meadows, or the alternate ambitious side loop on Moon Point Trail. Finish segment 4 and roll around the shores of Hill Creek Reservoir and across the pedestrian bridge to Greenwaters Park and the town of Oakridge.

Oakridge was a bustling timber harvest community in the years following World War II until the domestic timber industry collapsed in the 90s. The city has reinvented itself as a small town mountain

bike mecca and quickly attracted international media and a slew of sold-out mountain bike racing events. The large trail network that made this transition possible has been around

a long time, originally serving pack and saddle trains to remote outposts. Without the constant vigilance of MTB stewardship groups like Great Oakridge Area Trail Stewards, Disciples of Dirt and Trans Cascadia these trails would quickly and return to their natural state. The trail network is large and beckons a rest day (or two) with a



Undulating mountain layers © Gabriel Amadeus

hired shuttle guide to explore them unloaded.

Oakridge is roughly the halfway point and offers a well stocked grocery store, a full service bike shop (that also sells carhartts and cast iron), a popular brewpub, new distillery and several lodging options. If you're committed to sleeping on dirt, Salmon Creek Falls campground is just a few flat singletrack miles east of town.

### Diamond Peak by Wyatt

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Diamond peak is a shield volcano in the Cascade mountain range. A shield volcano is a broad, domed volcano that is a characteristic of fluid basaltic lava. It is less than 100,000 years old. It was formed by eruptions and glacial erosion. This created 15 cubic kilometers of basaltic andesite and glacial deposits. It's elevation is 8,748 ft and its prominence is 3,104. The first eruption was from the north side and then a new vent opened slightly to the south. It has been dormant for at least 11,000 years.

### Oakridge Geology by Izzy

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

As you near Oakridge to your left will be Salmon Creek. This creek is 15-2 million years old and is mainly made up of and Sandstone, Siltstone, Mudstone, and Claystone. Over millions of years, the creek deposited these rocks in valleys and basins making the landscape you see today. These have deposited sediment compacted to create a soft rock, in some areas this rock has been uplifted from their original spots and eroded away. In many places, the rocks are layered with lava flow.





Shaded forests of Bunchgrass Ridge © Gabriel Amadeus

## SEGMENT 5 OF 10 BUNCHGRASS RIDGE

Oakridge to Waldo Lake

### RESUPPLIES

*Mile 293: Oakridge - Full services: Ray's Grocery, Willamette Mercantile (Bike Shop), Brewer's Union Local 180, many small markets, stores, and restaurants. Be sure to stock up, there's only small resort stores until Sisters, 150 miles away.*

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

*Mile 293: Oakridge - Oakridge Lodge and Guest House, Westfir Lodge (off route), several motels*

Bunchgrass Ridge may be the most intimidating segment on the elevation profile, but it's also one

of the most iconic and remote ridgelines on the whole route. No other trail gets bantered about in mountain biking circles so much, yet ridden so little. Usually done as a shuttle from east to west, Bunchgrass is a formidable challenge in its "downhill" direction. The Oregon Timber Trail climbs Bunchgrass and follows it to Fuji Mountain and down around Waldo Lake's shores.

Some of the Willamette National Forest's most humbling old growth stands grace the slopes of Bunchgrass Ridge. Here you'll find some of the tallest giants in the state—stands of Douglas fir, Western Red Cedar, and Western Hemlock that have had roots in the ground since before Europeans stepped foot in North America. As you ascend to the spine of the ridge, the forest thins, shifting to Mountain Hemlock and Silver Fir and eventually

thinning further to open bunchgrass meadows.

These stands were the site of one of the nation's tensest and lengthiest timber sale blockades in the mid nineties after an arsonist set fire to 10,000 acres of spotted owl habitat. Long before that, Kalapooya natives would set fire to controlled burns on the ridgelines which maintained the namesake bunchgrass meadows that

they preferred for game hunting and camas harvesting. Klamath tribes would use these same ridgelines to travel from the eastern valleys and trade with the Kalapooya and Moalla tribes.

### Maiden Peak by Izzy

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

On August 12, 1997, in Japan (October 2, 1998, in America) ghost of maiden peak also called The Ghost Pokémon and the Summer Festival aired as the 20th episode of Pokémon. The scenery was roughly based on maiden peak Oregon.

Segment length:  
**54 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+8,832 feet**

Number of days: **2-3**

**3%** Paved

**28%** Dirt road

**69%** Singletrack

**90%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **7/10**

Technical difficulty: **7/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Intermediate**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**54 miles, 2-3 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**-20 miles**



Giant ferns and hewn cross cuts © Gabriel Amadeus



Sheep Camp on Big Bunchgrass meadow © Gabriel Amadeus





Waldo Lake Shelter © Gabriel Amadeus

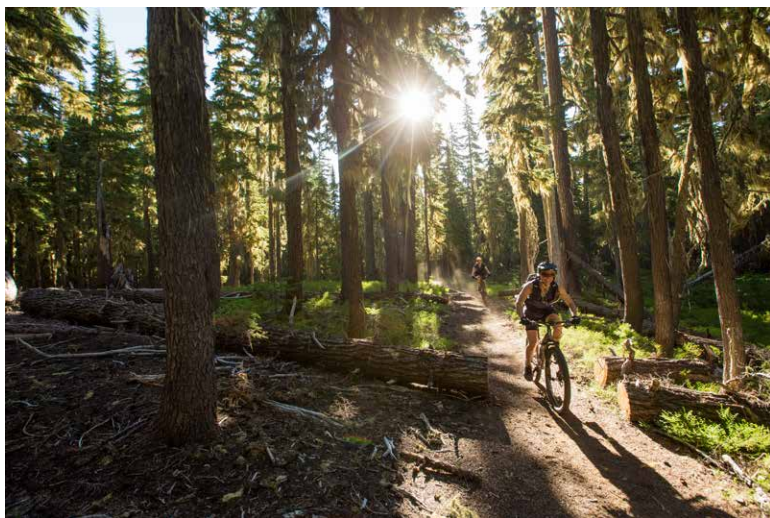
It's a difficult, remote segment but also some of the most rewarding backcountry riding of the whole route. You leave Oakridge well-rested along the flat flowy

Salmon Creek Trail, before taking a right and beginning your long ascent of Bunchgrass on the NF 2408 road. Most of the elevation gain is done on this gravel forest road, connecting to the trail at Little Bunchgrass (Mile 309) and continuing on singletrack along the ridgeline for 10 strenuous miles. Once leaving Salmon Creek for the climb there are very few, if any, water sources until the small lake at mile 320. There is one small, hard to spot spring as you enter the big bowl at mile 313.

Savor the deeper than deep forest, the precariously exposed meadows, and the fun descent from Fuji Mountain to Gold Lake. Here it's a short climb to Waldo Lake with several large, busy campgrounds, and a few dispersed sites along the western shores. Kick your shoes off and pat yourself on the back for crossing the Cascade Range a second time and finishing the Willamette Tier.



Deep in the shadows © Gabriel Amadeus



Re-entering the dry side © Leslie Kehmeier



Waldo Lake Trail © Gabriel Amadeus

### Waldo Lake by Reece, Bryson and Raven

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Mile marker 335-350 on the Timber Trail lies Waldo Lake. It is the second largest natural non-alkali lake in Oregon. Waldo Lake is a part of the Cascade Range. The rock types include Pleistocene, Pliocene, Basalt and Basaltic Andesite. Waldo Lake is in a glacial depression that is 10 miles long and 420 feet deep. Waldo Lake is beautifully clear and very popular for hiking and camping around.

Waldo lake is named in honor of Judge John. B Waldo of the Supreme Court, who pushed preservation in the cascades. It was first inhabited by Native Americans. Then later the lake was discovered by the Molalla Indian Charlie Tufti.

Later, after settlers came to the area, it was dubbed Pengra Lake by Byron J. Pengra. Again, the name was changed to Waldo lake in honor of the passing of Oakridge Judge John B. Waldo. The lake grew as a tourist site, and the average visitors per year rose to 32,000 in 1989. In 1996, forest fire appeared along the edge of the lake, forcing campgrounds to evacuate.





# DESCHUTES TIER

*Waldo Lake to Fish Lake via Sisters*

**130 MILES**  
**9,673 FEET**  
**3-6 DAYS**

The Deschutes Tier takes you back over to the dry, volcanic eastern flank of the Cascade Range. Bend is famous for its large network of world-class mountain bike trails and the Oregon Timber Trail takes advantage of them as it leaves Waldo Lake and winds its way through the Cascade Lakes region and around Mt. Bachelor.

Crossing under the shadow of Broken Top and the Three Sisters you'll visit Tam McArthur Rim and Three Creeks Lake before descending into Sisters for a stop at the brewery, stocking up at the co-op, and getting your bike tuned up.

The second leg of the Deschutes Tier takes you over the Cascade Range yet again on the historic Santiam Wagon Road. You'll

leave Sisters skirting Black Butte and Camp Sherman (worth a side trip) before popping out at Suttle Lake. A newly remodeled lodge offers rooms, cabins, hot food, cold cocktails and even canoe rentals. Once you've had your fill, you'll climb to Big Lake with views of Mount Washington and descend the sandy wagon ruts to Fish Lake and the headwaters of the Mckenzie River.







Tam McArthur Rim © Gabriel Amadeus

**2%** Paved

**42%** Dirt road

**55%** Singletrack

Percent rideable:  
**95%**

Physical difficulty:  
**5/10**

Technical difficulty:  
**6/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Intermediate**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**94 miles. 2-4 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**35 miles, 1-2 days**

## RECOMMENDED MAPS

USGS Topographical Quadrants available at USGS.gov

Bend Area Adventure Map

Bend Three Sisters National Geographic Trail Map

Deschutes National Forest Map

## HIGHLIGHTS

Secluded alpine lakes and dry alpine forests

Intense volcanic geology

Many Cascade peaks dotting the horizon

Small lake resort stores

Little Three Creeks Lake

Suttle Lodge

Santiam Wagon Road

## LOGISTICS

The Deschutes Tier has no substantial resupplies aside from Sisters. It does, however, have many small resort stores and restaurants. Make a plan and carry plenty of food.

There is one long dry section (~35 miles) around Mount Bachelor where you'll need to be careful to carry plenty of water, it can get quite hot in the summer.

There are roughly 2 miles of riding on the Cascade Lakes Highway between Wanoga and Swampy Lakes, please ride carefully and stay on the shoulder.

The Indian Ford bridge is out. (Mile 450) Use caution when detouring around on Hwy 126 for .25 miles.

The area around Big Lake is used by a lot of OHV traffic, stay alert and share these dirt roads.

The Metolius-Windigo Trail is a shorter multi-use trail option between Lava Lake and Sisters but it is a perceived high-conflict zone between equestrians and people on bikes. For this reason the official Oregon Timber Trail route skirts the Metolius-Windigo Trail and instead aligns on forest roads. Please be alert and friendly when passing through this area. See the beginning of this guide for suggestions on how to courteously interact with equestrians and other trail users. If you're comfortable riding and yielding right-of-way on trails shared

with equestrians; the Metolius-Windigo Trail is shorter, contains more singletrack, less climbing, and more water sources than the official Oregon Timber Trail route.

## TRAIL & FOREST INFO

Deschutes National Forest, Bend, OR - (541) 383-5300

## BIKE SHOPS

Mt. Bachelor Repair Shop, Mt. Bachelor - (800) 829-2442

Blazin Saddles, Sisters, OR - (541) 719-1213

## NEAREST MEDICAL FACILITIES

St. Charles Medical Center - 2500 NE Neff Road | Bend, OR 97701 | (541) 382-4321.

### Elk lake by XXXX

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Elk lake is apart of volcanic landscape which is about 25 miles west-southwest of bend along the Cascade lake scenic byway. It is nearly 49000 feet above sea level. It is six miles away from Mount Bachelor. Elk lake names stems from the large amount of elk that formerly frequented the area in the summer. It is the most populated of the cascades lakes.





Sun kissed forests © Leslie Kehmeier

Segment length:  
**94 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+7,145 feet**

Number of days: **2-4**

**3%** Paved

**40%** Dirt road

**57%** Singletrack

**100%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **5/10**

Technical difficulty: **6/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Intermediate**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**94 miles, 2-4 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**35 miles, 1-2 days**

## SEGMENT 6 OF 10

# CASCADE PEAKS

Waldo Lake to Sisters

## RESUPPLIES

*Mile 366: Cultus Lake Resort: Busy resort store and restaurant*

*Mile 376: Lava Lake Lodge: Quiet small resort store*

*Mile 405: Mount Bachelor Resort: Bike shop, grab and go food items, restaurant (limited hours, chairlift access)*

*Mile 421: Three Creeks Lake Store: Tiny & friendly lakeside store with basic snacks and beer*

*Mile 442: Sisters: Full Services*

## COMMERCIAL LODGING

*Mile 366: Cultus Lake Resort: Busy resort with cabins*

*Many options off route in Bend and Sunriver*

*Mile 442: Sisters: Many options*

The Cascade Lakes segment is defined by high elevation lakes that collectively form the headwaters of the Deschutes River system. These quiet lakes are nestled in volcanic rock and tree-lined shores and the segment connects the dots between them as it skirts Mount Bachelor and the Three Sisters.

You're back on the dry side of the cascade range now, and the forest makes that apparent. Ponderosas, Mountain Hemlock, Lodgepole Pine, and Juniper hug wet, grassy marshes and jagged dusty outcroppings. In contrast with the Willamette Tier, the Deschutes forest is sparser, dryer and typically made up of much smaller desert evergreens.

Leaving the shores of Oregon's second deepest lake—Waldo—you'll first pop over to Charlton Lake, then Lemish Lake, Little and big Cultus Lake, the Blue Lagoon, both Lava Lakes... you get the idea. It's likely going to be quite hot and sunny, so make sure to stop at each for an ice-cold dip. There is relatively little elevation gain throughout this section save for a little hop over the shoulder of Mount Bachelor on the Edison Lava Trail. Edison Lava can be rocky and technical in spots. Keep your wits about you and don't push beyond your riding abilities. You'll wrap around the east side of Bachelor on Dinah Moe Humm, Kiwa Butte and Funner-Tiddlywinks trails.

At Wanoga Sno-Park either detour to Bend's vast trail network and alluring brewery selection, or stay on route and hop on the Cascade Lakes Highway for two miles to



Alpine meadows © Leslie Kehmeier

connect to Swampy Lakes Sno-Park and the Dutchman connector. A bike shop, lift service trails and food are available at Mt. Bachelor Lodge, or continue on through Dutchman Flat to the rough and tumble NF 370 road. This road travels just below treeline through fragile subalpine meadows and groves. Many dispersed campsites are available along its length, but be cautious while riding the 370 road as it can be quite busy during peak summer season.

## Mt. Bachelor by Gibsen

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

The centerpiece of the Oregon Cascade Mountain Range, is known as the premiere ski destination in Central Oregon. The mountain at 9,065 feet, with a vertical drop of 3365 feet, features nearly 4300 acres of skiable terrain. Mount Bachelor is so called because it "stands apart" from the three sisters, a group of three volcanic mountains that are northwest of Mount Bachelor. The ski resort was founded by a former 10th mountain elite ski trooper, Bill Healy in 1958.





Little Three Creek Lake Trail © Gabriel Amadeus

After a few more miles you'll pop out at Three Creek Meadow. Either take a left to the busy Three Creek Lake Campground or hoof it into Little Three Creek Lake for a much more secluded campsite. This zone is a great place to relax for a day and explore the Three Sisters Wilderness and Tam McArthur Rim by foot. From camp it's a fast descent on dusty roads to the Peterson Ridge Trail system. Peterson Ridge is a dense network of fast rolling singletrack with great sight lines. It can be confusing at first but almost all trails will lead you to town and every intersection is well-signed. Head straight to the

### Three Sisters by Hollie

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

The Three Sisters are near mile maker 510 to 520. Each of the Three Sisters are different ages. The South Sister or also known as Charity, is the youngest of the Three Sisters, but is the tallest. The South Sister is about 50,000 years old, and last erupted about 2,000 years ago. The Middle Sister or Hope, is the second youngest. The Middle Sister is the smallest of the Three Sisters, and was formed about 55,000 year ago, and is thought to have last erupted about 50,000 year ago. The North Sister or Faith, is the oldest sister, and is only a slight bit taller than the Middle Sister. The North Sister is estimated to have last erupted about 100,000 year ago, so it is older than that.

brewery or explore the small but well-stocked town of Sisters. Cheap showers are available in the city park as well—you'll probably need them by this point.

### Lewis L. McArthur by Savannah

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Lewis L. McArthur also known as Tam McArthur named this rim after himself, he was also known as an early geographer. Tam was born April 27, 1883, in the Dalles, Oregon. His family was associated with Oregon's history and government. Tam's Grandfather Conducted the first survey of Pacific Coast for the USA in 1849 and 1850. His father served as a justice on the Oregon Supreme Court from 1870 to 1878 and as the United States Attorney for the State of Oregon. His mother organized the Oregon Historical Society and served on its board from 1898 until 1924. Tam's family history goes in depth, on the resettlement of Oregon. Tam received many awards, he served as president for two years at the American Name Society.



Santiam Wagon Road © Gabriel Amadeus

Segment length:  
**34 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+2,400 feet**

Number of days: **1-2**

**0%** Paved

**48%** Dirt road

**52%** Singletrack

**90%** Rideable (sandy)

Physical difficulty: **4/10**

Technical difficulty: **4/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Beginner**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**15 miles, 1 day**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**10 miles, 1 day**

### SEGMENT 7 OF 10

## SANTIAM WAGON ROAD

Sisters to Fish Lake

### RESUPPLIES

Mile 442: Sisters: Full Services

Mile 459: Suttle Lodge bar & restaurant

Mile 477: Clear Lake Resort: Very minimal snacks at store

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

Mile 442: Sisters: Many options

Mile 459: Suttle Lodge

Mile 477: Clear Lake Resort Cabins

A relatively short segment, the Santiam Wagon Road takes you west across over Santiam Pass to the headwaters of the McKenzie River and historic Fish Lake Work Center. The Santiam Wagon Road was built as a response to the influx of settlers coming to the Willamette Valley on the Oregon Trail. Soon all the workable land was snatched





Suttle Lodge © Gabriel Amadeus

up and emigrants headed back east over Santiam Pass to settle Oregon's central valley ranchland. While less rugged and steep than many routes, the wagon road was—and still is—an arduous journey. Belknap Crater and numerous spatter cones belched out loose volcanic sand across the range a few thousand years ago creating a frustratingly unstable road surface for wagons and mountain bikes alike.

Much like the rest of the Deschutes Tier, The Santiam Wagon Road takes you through thin lodgepole and ponderosa forests, transitioning to darker, greener groves as you make your descent to the spring-fed Clear Lake.

Leaving Sisters, wind your way through the hypnotizing orange trunks of Ponderosa Pines towards Black Butte. You may encounter equestrians between Sisters and Black Butte, say hi and move off the trail to let them pass. Hop on the Suttle Tie Trail to skirt Black

Butte and connect to the stunning Suttle Lodge. They've got quaint cabins, delicious cocktails, a giant outdoor beer garden, and enticing dock for jumping off. Rumor on the street is they'll even hook up Timber Trail riders with a free burger at the Boathouse.

### Mt. Washington by Hayden

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

Mt. Washington is a very interesting mountain. There are a lot of geologic facts. First of all it has an elevation of 7,795' and it is 3 miles in diameter. It is a Shield Volcano in the Cascade Range, a Shield Volcano is when a volcano is formed with mostly fluid lava and usually makes a dome or shield shape. The latitude is 44.30 and longitude is -121.80. It is also a active volcano, its most recent eruption was only 1,330 years ago.

Once refueled, begin the short but steep climb out of the basin and connect to the Santiam Wagon Road. Big Lake has campsites and great views of Mount Washington but is busy in summer months, keep going through the slow sand and eventually you'll start descending, once you cross the gravel road, the sand disappears and a super fun and fast forest grove trail opens up, taking you quickly to the upper parking lot for the McKenzie River Trail. Detour for a side loop on the MRT or push on into the fourth and final Hood Tier.

### Transcontinental Auto Race By Ashleigh

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

The transcontinental auto race was very tough. In one section of the race it was so tough it took the racers 18 hours to go 11 miles. After the big delays they were 11 days behind. They predicted time was 30 days, but it ended up taking 44.

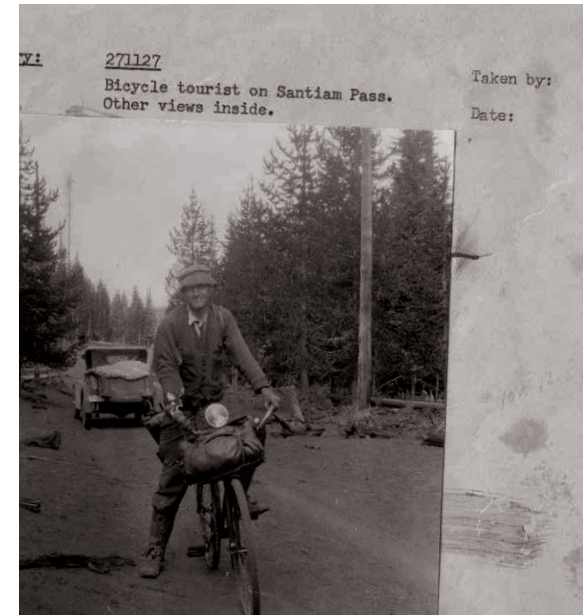
### Black Butte by Ryan

Springwater Environmental Sciences School

The volcano is a cone shaped, it is a stratovolcano. A stratovolcano is a volcano built up of alternate layers of lava and ash. it is a it is not an active volcano at the moment the last eruption was 1,400,000 years ago. because The rock age is Pleistocene. The main rock type is sandstone, and if you were to climb the volcano it's a 6,436 ft elevation.



Santiam Wagon Road © Gabriel Amadeus



Y: 271127  
Bicycle tourist on Santiam Pass.  
Other views inside.

Taken by:  
Date:





# HOOD TIER



*Fish Lake to  
Hood River*

**193 MILES  
+24,370 FEET  
5-9 DAYS**

As you head into the Hood Tier you may think you're on the final stretch—that is if you haven't looked at the elevation profile. The Hood Tier takes you up and down across countless backcountry ridges and streams, first teasing you with imposing views of Mount Jefferson and eventually Mount Hood itself. The Old Cascade Crest is steep and rewarding, eventually dropping you

near Detroit Lake and up to Olallie Lakes through the Breitenbush Hot Springs valley.

The Olallie Lakes Scenic Area is another quiet, high-elevation landscape speckled with pristine pocket lakes brimming with trout. (and mosquitos) Many great dispersed campsites are abound, and the Olallie Lake Resort is well-stocked for PCT thru-hikers so

should have a good selection for the bikepacker.

Keep heading north—here the Oregon Timber Trail follows dusty roads that were once the Oregon Skyline Trail, a predecessor to the Pacific Crest Trail established in 1968. You'll loop around Timothy Lake, marvel at Little Crater Lake, cross the White River at the historic Barlow Crossing, and begin your





# HOOD TIER

Views of Mount Hood from Olallie Lakes © Gabriel Amadeus

**21%** Paved

**31%** Dirt road

**48%** Singletrack

Percent rideable:  
**90%**

Physical difficulty:  
**9/10**

Technical difficulty:  
**8/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**90 miles, 2-3 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**20 miles, 1 day**

long climb to Gunsight Ridge. Gunsight connects to the famous Surveyor's Ridge, before dropping you into the Hood River valley where a plethora of fresh fruit, wine, beer, and BBQ await in Parkdale.

Don't celebrate too early as you've got another stiff climb ahead to the top of the Post Canyon trail system and a fast, rowdy trail down into the Columbia River Gorge and the bustling northern terminus of Hood River. Dip your tires and toes in the Columbia River: it's time to celebrate—you just rode your mountain bike across the whole state!

## RECOMMENDED MAPS

*USGS Topographical Quadrants available at [USGS.gov](http://USGS.gov)*

*Mount Hood Area Adventure Map*

*Hood River Mountain Biking Adventure Map*

*National Geographic Mount Jefferson / Mount Washington Trail Map*

*National Geographic Mount Hood Trail Map*

## HIGHLIGHTS

*Fish Lake Work Center*

*Crescent, Coffin, and Bachelor Mountains*

*McCoy Shelter*

*Breitenbush Hot Spring Retreat*

*Olallie Lakes*

*Timothy Lake*

*Barlow Crossing*

*44 Trails System*

*Surveyor's Ridge*

*Parkdale*

*Post Canyon*

## LOGISTICS

Although you're somewhat closer to civilization now, the resupply points are even more limited. There's no real resupply between Sisters and Idanha (80 hard miles) and no resupply between Olallie Lakes Resort and Parkdale (90 hard miles). Pack smartly and make sure you have enough food if it takes a day or two longer than expected.

Vegetation and trails are particularly sensitive in the Old Cascade Crest segment, tread lightly and practice

leave no trace wherever you ride and camp.

Breitenbush Hot Springs is an excellent and relaxing rustic hot springs retreat but note that reservations are required for staying overnight as well as day-use.

At the north end of Timothy Lake at mile 580 the Oregon Timber Trail and the Pacific Crest

Trail share the same foot bridge. Bikes are not allowed on the PCT, but walking your bike across this bridge is permitted. Please respect the no-bikes exclusion here and at other intersection points along the route.

Once entering the 44 Trails area after Gunsight Ridge there is a plethora of spur loop options for riders to embark on if desired. Fifteenmile, Knebal, Bottle Prairie, and Dog River are all excellent.

The final 20 miles travel through county lands that are managed for timber harvest, be cautious of logging traffic on narrow roads and respect temporary trail closures.



Olallie Lakes area © Leslie Kehmeier

## Skyline Trail By Kate

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

The skyline trail was from Mt. Hood to Crater lake. It was later referred to as the sheep way. Logging damaged the trail. The original skyline trail was made in 1909. A part of the old skyline trail runs along the timber trail today.



## TRAIL & FOREST INFO

Mount Hood National Forest -  
Sandy, OR | (503) 668-1700

## BIKE SHOPS

Dirty Fingers Bicycles Repair - 1235  
State St. | Hood River, OR 97031  
| (541) 308-0420

## NEAREST MEDICAL FACILITIES

St. Charles Medical Center - 2500  
NE Neff Road | Bend, OR 97701  
| (541) 382-4321

Salem Health - 890 Oak St. SE |  
Salem, OR 97301 | (503) 561-  
5200

Providence Portland Medical Center  
- 4805 NE Glisan St. | Portland,  
OR 97213 | (503) 215-1111

Providence Hood River Memorial  
Hospital - 810 12th St. | Hood  
River, OR 97031 | (541) 386-  
3911



Wildflower season © Leslie Kehmeier

### The Hood River by Sam

Springwater Environmental Sciences  
School

The Hood River is a very interesting body of water, its discovery dating back since Louis and Clark. Originally Louis and Clark called the river Labeasche River, but it was eventually renamed Hood River because the river was got its water from Mount Hood. The Mouth of the River on Mount Hood measures at 40 yards, which isn't even half of a football field. Hood River contains rocks such as Saddle Mountain Basalt and Grande Ronde basalt, which can be dated back to the Miocene. Hood River was created 12-15 million years ago by the Missoula floods, the Hood River Valley was inundated by the backwater from the river. The Gorge Area of Hood River was created by large glaciers carving deep into the lands until it became a gorge. Hood River at River Mile (RM) 12, and the Middle and East Fork Hood Rivers converge near RM 15, giving the Hood River watershed an estimated 695 miles of streams.



Lower Lake Trail © Leslie Kehmeier

Segment length:  
**73 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+12,606 feet**

Number of days: **2-4**

**15%** Paved

**57%** Dirt road

**28%** Singletrack

**85%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **9/10**

Technical difficulty: **8/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between  
resupply:  
**45 miles, 1-2 days**

Longest stretch between  
water sources:  
**Many water sources**

## SEGMENT 8 OF 10

# OLD CASCADE CREST

Fish Lake to Olallie Lake

## RESUPPLIES

Mile 477: Clear Lake Resort: Very  
minimal snacks at store

Mile 518: Idanha Store: Standard  
convenience store fare

Mile 535: Breitenbush: Small gift  
shop

Mile 550: Olallie Lake Resort: Well  
stocked resort store familiar with  
the needs of PCT thru-hikers

## COMMERCIAL LODGING

Mile 477: Clear Lake Resort: Very  
minimal snacks at store

Mile 535: Breitenbush Cabins

Mile 550: Olallie Lake Resort:  
Cabins and yurts available





Old Cascade Crest © Gabriel Amadeus

A little-known zone, Old Cascade Crest holds secret some of the best views of Mount Jefferson in the range. The Oregon Timber Trail only scales a few of the several steep peaks in this area, but these few will leave you exhausted and wanting to come back for more. You'll slowly work your way towards Olallie Lake in the shadow of Mt Jefferson through deep valleys and over ridgelines, passing fire lookouts, wildflower meadows, rushing streams, mountain lakes, and hot springs.

Leaving Clear Lake and the headwaters of the McKenzie you'll pass the Fish Lake Remount Depot which was a popular last stop to graze horses and cattle before the final push over Santiam Pass along the Santiam Wagon Road. This is one of the few small sections of the route where traveling on a highway is required. Be extremely careful and stay on the shoulder as you travel north on Hwy 126 and west on Hwy 20 for approximately 2 miles to the Old Cascades Crest Trailhead.

Shortly you'll come to the Crescent Mountain Trailhead and begin climbing this appropriately-named crest. Invasive species have been found at the trailhead and the meadow vegetation is extremely sensitive in this area so please

### Fish Lake Historic Site By Makenna

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Mid 1800's thousands of travelers including tribes and wagon trains, along with their livestock, pack animals, and freight have passed through this site. Tribes visited the area during the spring and summer months. They did this to hunt, fish, and collect huckleberries. The remount depot originally served as an office. This is where forest service personnel including firefighters and wilderness guards could rest with their pack animals and stock up on supplies.

refrain from straying off trail or camping in this zone. A steep climb and descent leave you skirting the Three Pyramids and on northward along dirt roads.

You'll pass the diminutive Tule Lake (a nice campsite) and come to Coffin Mountain (worth a detour for the views) and Bachelor Mountain (also worth the short scramble to the top) before a ripping descent to the North Santiam River, Hwy 22, and a small store in Idanha.

From Idanha there is a hefty road climb to the Boulder Ridge and the McCoy shelter (free and open on a first-come first-serve basis) and then an equally steep descent on dirt roads to Breitenbush Hot Springs Retreat. Breitenbush asks that you make reservations even for day use soaking, but it's worth the extra step—and even more worth it if you book a cabin and eat the communal meals.

A few more miles of pavement along the Cascading Rivers Scenic Bikeway lies ahead, and then you'll

take a sharp upward turn and begin the jumbly, loose climb into the Olallie Lakes Scenic Area. You'll roll past countless small pocket lakes, lined with dispersed campsites and teeming with life. Travel quietly and see what wildlife you'll encounter along the way. Before too long you'll come to Lower Lake where you'll probably detour right to the Olallie Lake Resort for supplies, or keep pushing on to Timothy Lake and Mount Hood.



Mount Hood National Forest night sky © Gabriel Amadeus

### Hood Tier by Elliott

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

In this segment of the Timber Trail, the path goes through the Columbia River Gorge. The Gorge was formed by glaciers piercing and trampling its way through the forming gorge. Over thousands of years, the glacier pushed through. The melt from the glacier, the Pacific ocean flow, and the Missoula Floods all combined to supply the gorge with the Columbia River. A lot of these formations, like the gorge, are made of the Cascade Basalts. These Basalts were formed during the Cascade events, a series of volcanic activity and flooding 15 Million years ago.





Circling Timothy Lake © Leslie Kehmeier

Segment length:  
**92 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+8,746 feet**

Number of days: **2-3**

**20%** Paved

**26%** Dirt road

**54%** Singletrack

**95%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **7/10**

Technical difficulty: **6/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Advanced**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**92 miles, 2-3 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**22 miles, 1 day**

## SEGMENT 9 OF 10

### WY'EAST

Olallie Lake to Parkdale

### RESUPPLIES

*Mile 550: Olallie Lake Resort: Well stocked resort store familiar with the needs of PCT thru-hikers*

*Mile 641: Parkdale: Several restaurants and full grocery store*

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

*Mile 550: Olallie Lake Resort: Cabins and yurts available*

*Mile 641: Old Parkdale Inn*

This segment is called Wy'east after the Multnomah Tribe's name for this imposing and prominent stratovolcano—the highest peak in Oregon. The history runs deep here: many river and lakes have attracted hunters and fishermen for thousands of years. The terrain is steep and the forests dense, yet somehow provided a less-formidable path to the Willamette Valley for emigrants of the Oregon Trail. The alternative was the raging rapids of the mighty

Columbia that would snuff out a wagon-laden raft without a thought.

Finally Mount Hood creeps larger as you follow the path of the historic Skyline Trail to Timothy Lake where you're rewarded with picturesque views. Follow the lake trail clockwise to the meadows at the north end and take a peek at Little Crater Lake before continuing on. Just before you reach Hwy 26 turn right into Skyline Sno-Park and ride through the large culvert under the highway.

Just before you cross White River, turn right and follow the historic Barlow Road (NF 3530) to the south, crossing the the river and passing Forest Creek Campground. The next 8 miles to Bennett Pass will be tough ones—2,000 feet of elevation in just 8 miles. But it's worth it for the camp at Bonney Meadows or Boulder Lake. Keep

pushing along Gunsight Ridge and Gumjuwac Saddle which affords you with your first up close and personal views of Mt Hood.

Peaking out at High Prairie you'll begin the long, sustained drop into the Hood River Valley and the Columbia River Gorge. Follow Lookout Mountain Trail, to Knebal Springs trail, to the top of Surveyor's Ridge picking your way through meadows, forests and outcroppings. The final descent to Parkdale on Oak Ridge trail is steep and switchbacky, take it slow and be careful once you pop back out on the busy country roads of the Hood River Valley.

Parkdale is a relaxed little agricultural town known for it's fruit, beer, barbecue, and stunning views of Mt Hood. Pick up a few supplies at the grocery store—but not too many—you're only a short 30 miles from the northern terminus of the Oregon Timber Trail.

### Mile 585-600 by Lilly

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Mile marker 585-600 is in the Mount Hood segment in the Hood Tier. The Hood Tier is in the Cascades, which was formed 42 million years ago. Basalt and Basaltic Andesite are common rock types in this area. There are four lakes in the area, Frog Lake, Clear Lake, and the Twin Lakes. Clear Lake was formed by lava that destroyed a forest that is now covered with water, which is now called the underwater forest, and the Twin Lakes were formed by magma hitting ground water.



Ascending to Bonnie Meadows © Leslie Kehmeier





Waucoma Backcountry © Gabriel Amadeus

Segment length:  
**28 miles**

Total climbing:  
**+3,002 feet**

Number of days: **1-2**

**49%** Paved

**16%** Dirt road

**35%** Singletrack

**100%** Rideable

Physical difficulty: **5/10**

Technical difficulty: **6/10**

Bikepacking challenge:  
**Beginner**

Longest stretch between resupply:  
**28 miles, 1-2 days**

Longest stretch between water sources:  
**Many water sources**

## SEGMENT 10 OF 10 **THE GORGE** Parkdale to Hood River

### RESUPPLIES

*Mile 641: Parkdale: Several restaurants and full grocery store*

*Mile 670: Many Hood River options available*

### COMMERCIAL LODGING

*Mile 641: Old Parkdale Inn*

*Mile 670: Many Hood River options available*

At this point you can almost taste victory, you couldn't fathom pointing your haggard body and bike up another rocky climb. But there remains one more gruelling ascent and then a glorious rowdy bomb through the famous Post Canyon down to Waterfront Park in Hood River.

Leave Parkdale with full bellies for a mellow, flat, paved cruise through fruit tree orchards, cross the Hood River itself at Dee, and then drop to your granny gear as you hit

dirt. After a scenic and steep 7 miles you'll arrive at the Kingsley Reservoir staging area. Kingsley, the last campground available on the route, is a small reservoir with campground that is popular with fisherman, OHV riders, and mountain bikers.

Post Canyon trails have gone through several iterations as mountain biking has evolved, but they've been on the radar of mountain bikers nationwide consistently for the past 15 years. Near the top of the system at Kingsley expect to encounter more motorized trail traffic, where the lower trails are optimized for mountain biking. Many options are available through the network, choose freely but be aware of frequent temporary trail closures for active timber harvests.

With names like Dirt Surfer, Whipsnake, and Bladerunner you're sure to have a blast. These are some

### Native Americans By Lilly *Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Native Americans lived in the Mount Hood area for thousands of years before settlers came. They used the area for camps, hunting and gathering. They hunted deer and elk. They gathered mainly huckleberries. The tribes that lived in the area were Molalla, Wasco, Balapuians, Chinookan, Northern Paiutes, and Sahaptin Speaker.



Post Canyon © Leslie Kehmeier



Kingsley Reservoir © Gabriel Amadeus



of the more fun, flowy, and challenging purpose-built mountain bike trails on the whole route, check out the entire trail system on [mtbproject.com](http://mtbproject.com) if you want to pick an easier line through the canyon.

The last few miles take you through the bustling town of Hood River. People travel from all over the world to kite surf, kayak, hike, and mountain bike here and it's apparent with the many bike shops, breweries, and cafes catering to this adventurous crowd. Roll over the freeway and jump in the Columbia River at Waterfront Park. Delicious beer and hot food are on the other side of the



*The mighty Columbia River © Leslie Kehmeier*

street waiting for you to celebrate finishing your rugged and thrilling trek across the multitude of natural and cultural landscapes that make up Oregon.

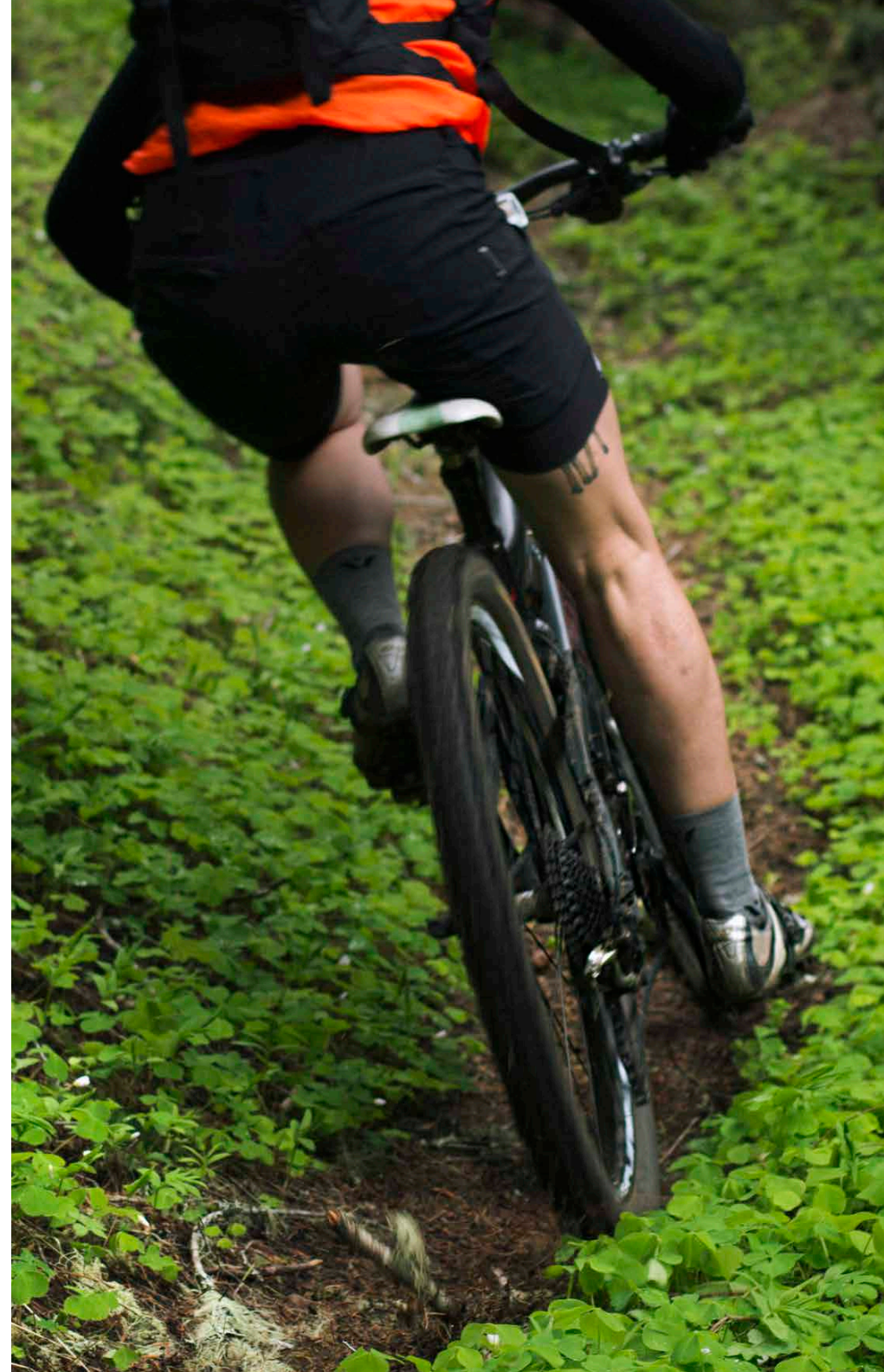
### **Mt. Hood by Kate**

*Springwater Environmental Sciences School*

Mt Hood is a dormant volcano which means that Mt Hood hasn't erupted in a long time but it is still capable of erupting again. The Sandy River that runs near Mt Hood was formed by debris under a glacier which carved the hillside. Mt Hood is made up of Dacite, Andesite, and Basalt. The lahars on Mt Hood were made by landslides, lahars are destructive mudflows on volcanos. Mt Hood reportedly blew up in 1869, 1854, and 1781.



*Rewarding yourself back in civilization © Gabriel Amadeus*







*The Oregon Timber Trail Alliance is dedicated to Stewardship, Education, Community, and quality trail Experiences throughout the Oregon Timber Trail corridor.*



### STEWARDSHIP

Fostering respect and a stewardship ethos for the Oregon's diverse history, public lands and natural and cultural landscapes. The OTTA is committed to maintaining a quality trail experience along the OTT corridor by collaborating to host trail work events, identifying need areas, and developing action plans to create better trail experiences for all trail users.



### COMMUNITY

Without engagement and communication among community, values are forgotten and lost. The OTTA strives to build community among its own ranks as well as reach out to the young generations of local communities across the state and invest in their health and future as public land stewards and recreationalists.



### EDUCATION

With stewardship comes a desire to help and share the resource. The OTTA is committed to creating a growing community of invested forest users by providing skills classes, wilderness medical training, and courses in trail building and maintenance. The OTTA is dedicated to educating our user base around the world as well as engaging the local communities the OTT corridor passes through. With outreach and education the OTTA can create trail stewards for generations to come.



### EXPERIENCE

Why we do what we do. The OTTA is committed to preserving and creating backcountry singletrack trail experiences along the OTT corridor. The backcountry cyclist is not only looking for a well-designed and well-maintained trail, but an un-molested landscape to travel through while experiencing diverse ecosystems and rich cultural history. Access, trail connectivity, conservation, and public land preservation are paramount to the sought experience of the OTT rider.





# OREGON TIMBER TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Oregon Timber Trail Alliance (OTTA) is comprised of riders, community members, advocates, and volunteers throughout the state. The OTTA is operating under a Memorandum Of Understanding with the United States Forest Service and the direction of a diverse member board.



**Jocelyn Gaudi Quarrell** (Portland, OR) is a Texas native that started cycling in Massachusetts and now calls Oregon home. Jocelyn loves off-road cycling in every form - she is the founder of Komorebi Cycling and is an ambassador for Juliana Bicycles. Jocelyn is passionate about empowering women to adventure by bicycle and has lead dozens of ladies out for their first bikepacking experience. Jocelyn is the president of the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance.



In **Harry Dalgaard's** (Portland, OR) role as Regional Cooperative Tourism Program Manager at Travel Oregon, he helps advance and implement Oregon's tourism initiatives. Harry is a native Oregonian who is passionate about developing the equitable balance between people, place, and economic vitality throughout the state of Oregon.... AND microbrew & singletrack. Harry is the vice president of the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance.



**Gabriel Amadeus Tiller** (Portland, OR) is the founder of Limberlost, an immersive tourism development firm. Gabriel has been described as the U.S.' preeminent bikepacking expert and is a contributor for *Bicycling Magazine*, *The Radavist*, *Outside Online*, and others. He has developed several of the nation's highest-quality bikepacking routes in Oregon. His passion for creating and sharing outdoor experiences has lent itself well to his leadership role in honing the narrative and thoroughly collaborative development process of the Oregon Timber Trail.



**Kim McCormack** is an outdoor adventurer based out of Portland Oregon. She and a friend, Sam Clark, were Oregon Timber Trail Pioneers, completing the route in it's entirety during the summer of 2016. Kim is happiest when she is exploring by bike and is excited to share the Oregon Timber Trail with others.



**Chris DiStefano** (Portland, OR) has been in the bicycle industry for 25+ years with a focus on advocacy from the beginning. A former member of the IMBA board of directors, Chris's current focus is business legislation for cycling and advocacy for bicycles in the urban landscape. He hopes to complete a full tier of the OTT during the summer of 2017. Chris is the secretary for the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance.



**Chris Bernhardt's** (Portland, OR) passion is sharing the outdoors with others. He is co-owner of C2 Recreation Consulting, working in North America, Europe, and Asia to create sustainable trails that support rural communities. Chris is the treasurer for the Oregon Timber Trail Alliance.



**Dylan VanWeelden** is an outdoor photographer and creative director based out of Portland, Oregon. He is a leader within the cycling industry with a lifetime of marketing work for many of today's top cycling brands. See more of his work at [www.vanweeldencreative.com](http://www.vanweeldencreative.com).



Born and raised in Sioux Falls, SD **James Good** (Prineville, OR) has been working in the Outdoor Industry crossing disciplines from cycling to skiing and climbing for over 20 years. Now owning his own bicycle shop, Good Bike Co., in Prineville, Oregon you will find James thrashing around the woods in search of single track or cruising isolated gravel roads bikepacking. That is if he's not in the shop.









**OREGON**  
**TIMBER TRAIL** *Pioneer Year* 2017 ROUTE GUIDE

