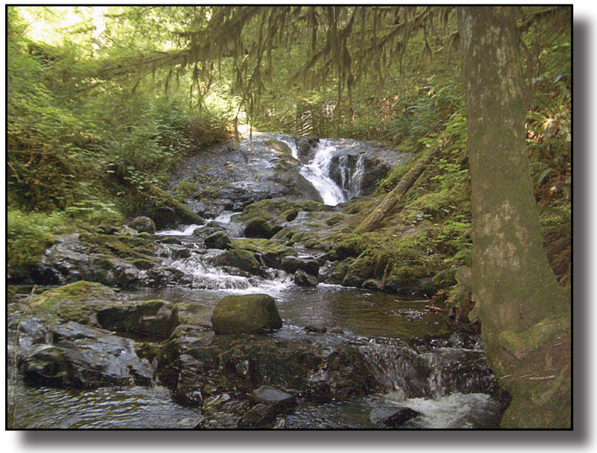
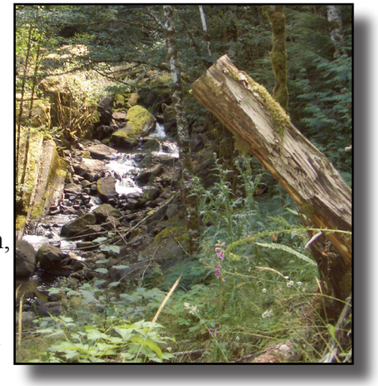
## Know Before You Go

The Nestucca River National Back Country Byway traverses the Oregon Coast Range following one of Oregon's most scenic rivers. It offers the traveler a leisurely route through a typical coastal forest and its varied attractions. Multiple land use of the area is well demonstrated in forest, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife management.



The Nestucca Canyon cuts through 40-million-year-old formations of basalt, siltstone, and sand-stone, with occasional exposed, large columnar basalt crystals in some areas. For the more adventurous, an alternate scenic loop drive takes one up to the summit of the Coast Range. At Sheridan Peak, a scenic viewpoint offers panoramic views of the Willamette Valley and snow-capped Cascade peaks from Mt. Rainier in Washington State, to the Three Sisters in central Oregon.

Wildflowers, in varied hues, border the roadway most of the year. They include columbine, foxglove, larkspur, and tiger lilies. In autumn, vibrant red vine maple highlights the landscape. The Nestucca River provides scenic falls and pools where Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and trout can be viewed. Elk and deer are often seen in the area.



Five recreation sites provide easy access to the river, camping, drinking water, and restrooms. The Nestucca River National Back Country Byway offers opportunities for a leisurely afternoon drive or an extended visit to enjoy the scenic and recreational features of the area.

## Directions to the Site

The Nestucca River National Back Country Byway is easily accessible and can be considered as a destination in itself, or a less hurried alternative route between the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley.

The western access point is the town of Beaver, Oregon, about 12 miles south of Tillamook on U.S. Highway 101. The west end of the alternate loop drive begins at Bible Creek Road, approximately 16 miles east of Beaver. This loop drive may also be accessed via Gilbert Creek Road, about 12 miles from Willamina, Oregon.

The eastern access point may be reached from Carlton, Oregon, by taking Meadow Lake County Road west for about 12 miles to the beginning of the Nestucca River Access Road. The eastern end of the alternative loop begins at Bald Mountain Road, approximately 17 miles west of Carlton.

All but three miles of the Nestucca River National Back Country Byway is a two-lane paved road, the other being all-weather rocked road. The alternate loop route is a single-lane paved road with frequent turnouts. Much of the route is winding and meant for slow, leisurely driving. Log truck traffic may be encountered throughout the year. The Nestucca Back Country Byway is open year-round but may become hazardous or impassable for short periods of time because of snow and ice.

## District Contact Information

### *Salem District*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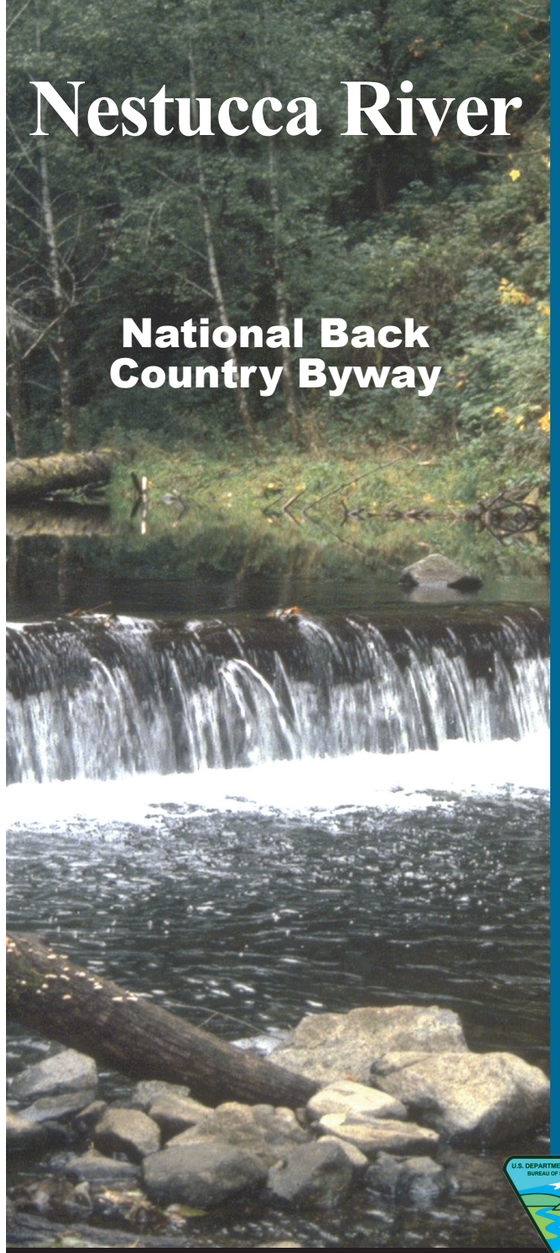
# Nestucca River

## National Back Country Byway



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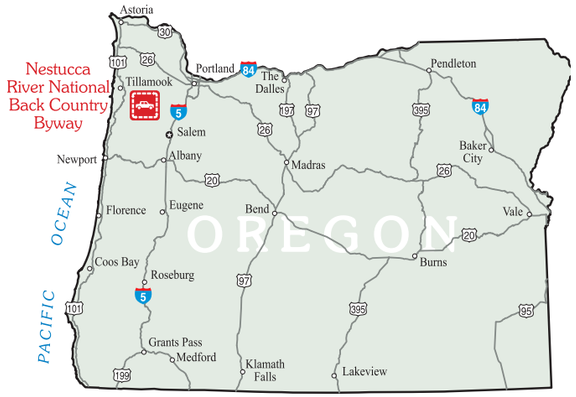
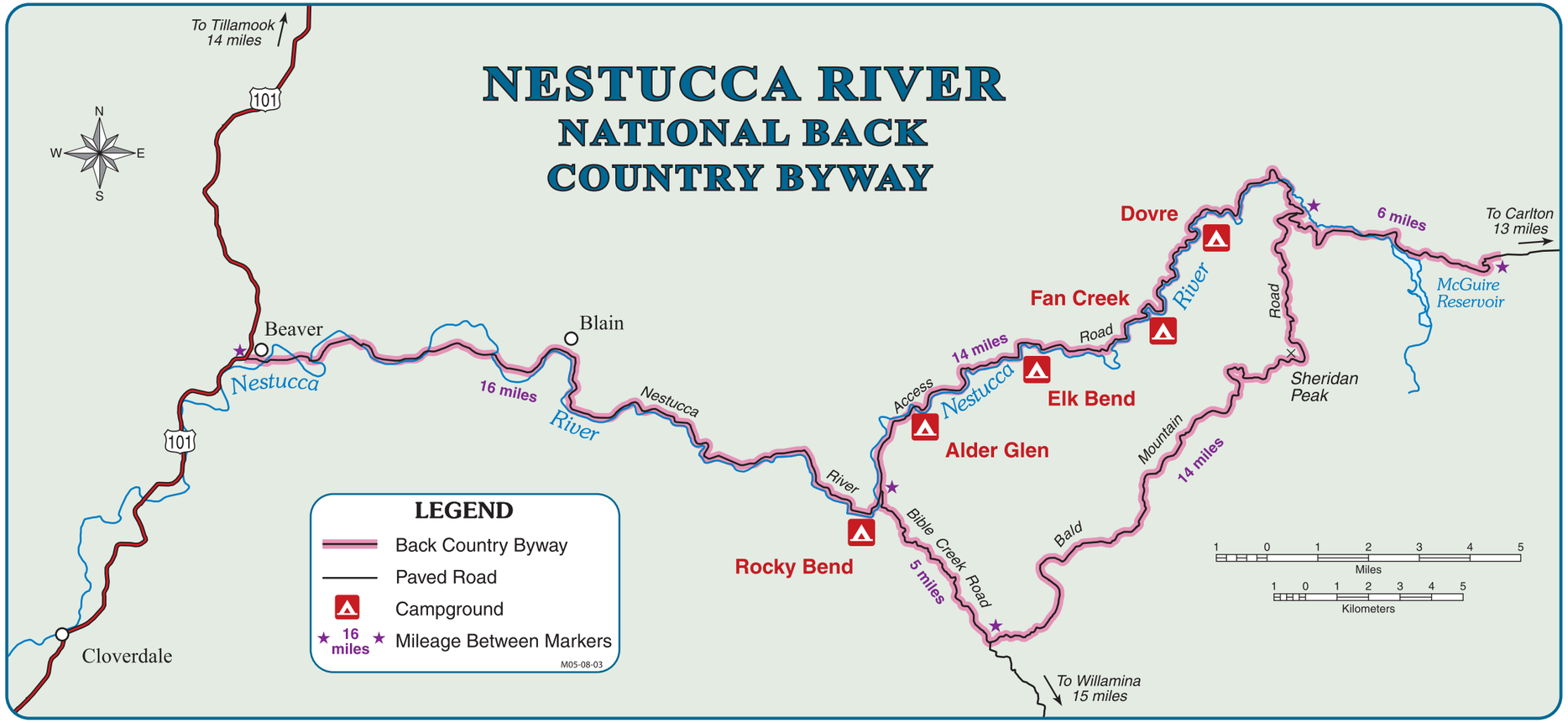
# Welcome to Nestucca River National Back Country Byway

Are you interested in exploring Oregon's back country, those places often overlooked by highway motorists on their way to well-known attractions?

For those with the time and desire to turn off the beaten path onto a country road, Back Country Byways provide access




to a diversity of landscapes and attractions just waiting to be rediscovered. From forests to deserts, from mountains to canyons, the willing explorer can find some of Oregon's spectacular but lesser-known attractions.

Back Country Byways provide visitors the opportunity to view a variety of wildlife in its native habitat, explore remote and historic areas, watch Native Americans dip net salmon, or photograph high desert plateaus and snow-capped mountains. The opportunity for outdoor adventure is unlimited. But most of all, Back Country Byways are a means to let travelers "get away from it all" and see some of the little-known areas that make Oregon unique and special.