

Know Before You Go

The South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway traverses the Oregon Coast Range following a portion of one of Oregon's most scenic rivers and offering travelers a leisurely route through coastal forests of Douglas-fir. Some areas were recently planted and other areas contain individual 400-year-old trees that tower 200 feet. The area's moist, riparian habitat teems with lush vegetation. Red vine maples highlight the landscape from mid-summer through autumn. Columbines, foxglove, larkspur, and wildflowers of varied hues, border the road during summer.

The South Fork Alsea River has rapids and pools where coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead and trout can be viewed and caught. Elk and deer are also commonly seen in the area.

The Alsea Falls Recreation Site borders the South Fork Alsea River and has picnic and camping facilities, hiking trails, drinking water, comfort stations, and an outstanding view of Alsea Falls. The South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway offers opportunities for a scenic afternoon drive or an extended visit to enjoy the natural features of the area.

Directions to the Site

The South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway can be a destination or a less hurried alternate route between the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley. The winding road through the Oregon Coast Range follows the South Fork Alsea River and is meant for slow, leisurely driving.

From 99 W South of Corvallis: Take County Road C-03-45120 or Alpine Road from the community of Alpine, Oregon. Conveniences in Alpine include a park and pub. Christmas tree nurseries, farms, and a winery dot the landscape as you head west along the South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway.

From the town of Alsea: Drive south one mile on State Highway 201 or Deadwood Highway one mile to South Fork Road. South Fork Road connects with the South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway. Alsea has restaurants, gas, small stores, a post office, and a Library.

Part of the South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway is single lane with turnouts and about 2 miles is improved gravel surface road. The entire South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway is well maintained throughout the year. The low elevation and relatively mild climate of the area make it generally usable year-round.

Be cautious of logging trucks and stay to the right side of the road.

District Contact Information

Salem District Office

Bureau of Land Management
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

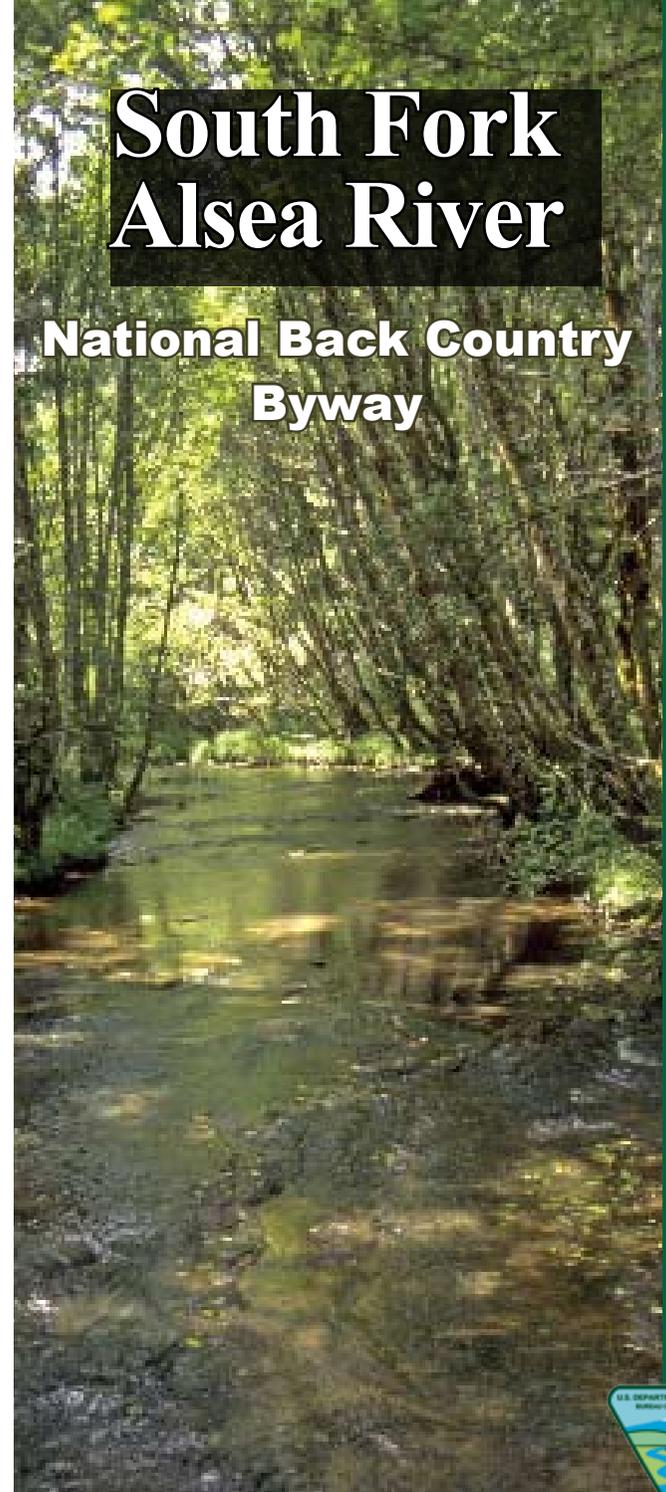
503-375-5646

www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/

BLM/OR/WA/GI-06/029+1122.32

South Fork Alsea River

National Back Country Byway



BLM

Salem District



Public Lands USA:
Use • Share • Appreciate

Welcome to South Fork Alsea Falls

National Back Country Byway

Interested in exploring Oregon's back country? Are you looking for 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, Oregon Bureau of Land

Management's (BLM) National 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.

National Back Country Byways provide visitors the opportunity to view a variety of wildlife in its natural habitat, explore remote and often historic areas, watch Native Americans dip net salmon, or photograph high desert plateaus and snowcapped mountains. The opportunities for outdoor adventure and enjoyment are unlimited. But most of all, BLM National 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 special.

