Welcome To Table Rock Wilderness

Table Rock Wilderness was designated a part of the National Wilderness System in 1984. It is the last large area—6,028 acres—of pristine forest land in the Molalla River drainage. Its steep, rugged terrain, towering basaltic cliffs, spectacular vistas, brilliant wildflowers, diverse wildlife and unique history combine to create a distinctive wilderness experience. A 16-mile system of trails, suitable for horse travel and hiking, extends along the prominent ridges within the Wilderness.

The Table Rock Trailhead offers the shortest and most accessible route to Table Rock via the Table Rock Trail and Summit Trail. The hike is a relatively easy 3.3 miles, and climbs approximately 1000 feet. A rock slide in 1996 blocked access to the previous trailhead. Users are now forced to use roughly 1 mile of blocked road and a short section of trail to reach the previous trailhead location. Hikers should be aware that the Summit trail crosses a moderately challenging boulder field near the base of the north face. At an elevation of 4,881 feet, Table Rock is the highest point in the Wilderness, and offers an exceptional view of the Cascade Range. On a clear haze-free day, visitors may be able to see—north to south—Mt. Rainier, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Adams in Washington, Mt. Hood, Mt. Jefferson, Three-fingered Jack, Mt. Washington, North, Middle, and South Sisters in Oregon, and Mt. Shasta in California from the Table Rock Summit.

The Rooster Rock Trailhead is located at the end of Rooster Rock Road. Rooster Rock Trail, a short, but very steep trail, connects with the High Ridge Trail and provides great access to Rooster Rock and Peachuck Lookout. Rooster Rock boasts incredible views of Table Rock and Mount Jefferson on a clear day. Peachuck Lookout is a historic two-story cupola fire lookout and is listed on the National Historic Lookout Register. Volunteers help the BLM maintain the structure so visitors can enjoy the site. No reservations are required. Please leave the Lookout as you found it.

The Old Bridge Trailhead provides access to the High Ridge Trail, a trail which presents the most serious challenge to hikers in the Table Rock Wilderness. The trail climbs over 3200 feet from the trailhead to Rooster Rock. The first 2 miles are steep and entail several switchbacks. Most of the trail is sheltered by a forest canopy of Douglas fir and western hemlock. During June and July visitors are treated to a dazzling display of flowering rhododendron.

Bull Creek Trailhead can be accessed from Rooster Rock Road, and except for limited horse-trailer parking, offers equestrians excellent entry into the Wilderness. From here visitors take Bull Creek Trail to Image Creek Trail or High Ridge Trail to explore the Wilderness.
Wilderness Etiquette

Remember the ‘Leave No Trace’ and ‘Pack-It-In, Pack-It-Out’ ethics of wilderness use.

HIKING – to prevent soil erosion, please stay on designated trails and avoid ‘cutting’ switchbacks. Cross country travel is permitted but avoid wet meadows, steep or unstable hillsides, and fragile vegetation. Be prepared for emergencies, and know your physical limits. Vehicles, including mountain bikes, are prohibited on wilderness trails.

HORSES – Avoid the Table Rock Trail rocky slopes and boulder laden areas make it poorly suited for horse travel. The Old Jeep Trail, and the trail loading from Peachuck Trailhead to the Old Bridge Trailhead offer good access to the Wilderness. Parking areas at the Old Bridge Trailhead, and at the upperend of the Old Jeep Trail, offer adequate trailer turn around space.

LITTER – help keep the wilderness clean; pack out ALL trash.

WATER is in short supply throughout the Table Rock Trail System. All water should be boiled or treated before drinking. For assured supplies and potability, pack in water for you and your livestock. For assured supplies and potability, pack water for you and your livestock. To protect water sources and riparian areas, please tether livestock at least 100 feet from streams and springs.

CAMPING is permitted, although campfires are not permitted in sensitive high meadow areas or on the Table Rock summit. Camp sites should be located at least 100 feet from any spring or stream. When possible, food should be stored away from campsites and suspended ten feet above ground to discourage wild animals.

CAMPFIRES – to lessen impacts to the wilderness, use portable camp stoves for cooking. Dead wood, used as fuel, robs the soil of essential elements. Do not cut live trees or shrubs. If you do build a fire, use existing fire rings or designated fire areas. Fires are not permitted on Table Rock summit.

SANITATION – Individual latrines should be dug in soft aerable soil 6 to 8 inches deep and located at least 200 feet from camps, trails, and streams. Cover latrines with soil and leave as natural looking as possible.

HUNTING is allowed in accordance with Oregon State Game laws. Please follow the common sense rules of hunter safety; other wilderness users may be present.

PETS – loose pets can be a menace to wildlife and wilderness vegetation, and an annoyance to other wilderness users. Please control your pet at all times, or consider leaving your pet at home.

About Table Rock...

Table Rock Wilderness is part of an area described as the Old Cascades—or Cascade foothills—formed long before the snowcapped peaks of the high Cascade Range rose into the Oregon skyline. The vegetation of the Wilderness, and the surrounding area, is typical of the diverse landscapes of north Oregon's Cascade foothills.

Visitors to Table Rock Wilderness often notice that the Wilderness is forested mostly with younger trees. These tall Douglas noble, and pacific silver firs sprouted after several fires swept the area; the last in 1880. So complete was the destruction of these fires that only a few trees were left standing. Some of these can be seen today as charred rotting stumps, or as the ancient towering parents of today's existing forest.

The forests surrounding Table Rock Wilderness are mostly private timberlands. Lumberjacks first entered the area in the 1930s, and by the 1970s had harvested most of the available mature timber. The forests visible today are mostly second growth ready for possible harvest early in the next century.

The High Ridge Trail is thought to have been established by Native Americans in prehistoric times to follow game, gather berries, and as a trade route to neighboring tribes. In the late 1800s homesteaders and prospectors used the trail. Shortly after 1900 local residents traveled the route to Bagby Hot Springs located near Bull of the Woods Wilderness in the Mount Hood National Forest.

To reach Table Rock Wilderness, located 19 miles southeast of Molalla take the Woodburn exit from I-5. Travel east on Highway 21 to Molalla. From the east end of Molalla follow signs to Feyrer Park. From Feyrer Park turn right on South Dickie Prairie Road. Travel on South Dickie Prairie Road to the bridge at Glen Avon. Cross the bridge, turn left and travel south 12 miles on South Molalla Road to the junction of Middle Fork and Copper Creek roads. A right turn leads to the Old Bridge Trailhead, immediately across the bridge. A left turn leads to the Table Rock Trailhead (see inside map).