

# Oregon

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## Rogue River Trail



### Grave Creek to Big Bend

*Rogue National Wild and Scenic River*



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*Above: View of the trail.  
Cover photo: View of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River from Whiskey Creek Overlook.*

# Welcome to a National Treasure!

The Rogue River National Recreation Trail, stretching 40 miles between Grave Creek and Big Bend, offers some of southwestern Oregon’s most amazing landscapes and rewarding hiking experiences. The trail traverses the wild section of the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River along its entire length. In addition, the western 16 miles cross the Wild Rogue Wilderness. These national designations recognize and help protect the Rogue’s outstanding scenery, fisheries, and recreational resources for present and future generations. The trail and the river are co-managed by the Bureau of Land Management’s Medford District and the U.S. Forest Service’s Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

## Location

The Rogue River Trail follows the north bank of the river as it winds its way toward the Pacific Ocean. The eastern trailhead is at Grave Creek about 30 miles northwest of the city of Grants Pass. The western trailhead is at Big Bend near Foster Bar, about 35 miles upriver from the coastal town of Gold Beach. The Marial Trailhead and Rogue River Ranch provide access near the midpoint of the trail. The handout “Rogue River Shuttle Map” found at [www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/maps-publications.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/maps-publications.php) provides directions to the trailheads.

**Trip Planning**    

The Rogue River Trail is a HIKING TRAIL ONLY, closed to motorized vehicles, bicycles, and pack animals. Most of the trail is well constructed and has moderate grades. The average hiker takes 4-5 days to walk the 40 miles. Downed trees, landslides and high water in creeks can create difficult passage during the rainy season, usually November through April. Annual maintenance usually occurs April through June, after winter storms are no longer a threat.

The trail may be hiked from either end or from the middle. During the heat of the summer when temperatures may reach 100 F, many choose to hike from west to east, keeping the afternoon sun at their

backs. Moderate temperatures make spring and fall popular seasons to hike.

## Trailheads and Public Facilities

The east trailhead, **Grave Creek boat ramp**, has pit toilets, trash receptacles and a small **free** parking area that is DAY USE ONLY. OVERNIGHT PARKING AND CAMPING ARE NOT ALLOWED AT THE GRAVE CREEK BOAT RAMP AREA. Overnight parking is allowed along the road above the boat ramp, but is not recommended due to potential hazards such as rock slides and vandalism. Almeda Campground, about 5 miles upriver from Grave Creek, has overnight **fee** parking (five dollars in 2011). The campground is open April through November. Almeda Campground is a Josephine County campground and has a campground host, drinking water, vault toilets and trash receptacles. Drinking water is available to Almeda campers only.

Two trailheads, 23 to 25 miles down the trail from Grave Creek, **Rogue River Ranch and Marial**, can be found at the end of a long, two hour or more, drive down Marial Road. The road to Marial is a one lane, winding mountain road with no gas stations or other services. Come prepared with a full tank of gas, plenty of food and water and the proper clothing for the weather. Go to: [www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/files/RogueRiverRanch2004.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/files/RogueRiverRanch2004.pdf) for directions and a map. The area is located near Mule Creek and features the Rogue River Ranch, Tucker Flat Campground, Marial Lodge and the Marial Trailhead. The trail is on the road from mile 23, at the Ranch, to mile 25, at the Marial Trailhead where Marial Road ends.

**The Rogue River Ranch**, 23 hiking miles from Grave Creek, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors are welcome to explore the ranch area and look inside the museum, when it is open. The ranch has a pit toilet, a small day use public parking area (room for two vehicles) and drinking water. Volunteer Caretakers keep the museum open and maintain the ranch from early May to late October. Nearby overnight parking, for about ten cars, is available at Tucker Flat Campground.

**Tucker Flat Campground**, 23.4 hiking miles from Grave Creek, is a no-host campground with six campsites with no hook-ups and no potable water. Tucker Flat also features pit toilets, picnic tables and a trailhead for Mule Creek Trail into the Rogue Wilderness.

**Marial Trailhead**, 25 hiking miles from Grave Creek, has free overnight parking with room for about ten cars.

The west trailhead, **Big Bend Trailhead**, has a pit toilet and free overnight parking. **Foster Bar Campground and Boat Launch**, one-half mile down the road (southwest) from the Big Bend Trailhead, has drinking water, flush toilets, a campground host and a scat machine available year round. There are trash receptacles at Foster Bar available May 1 through November 15. And, the boat launch site has year round **free** overnight parking.

## Primitive Services

Most of this booklet is a trail log; therefore, mileage figures in the text refers to mileages in the trail log. There are many small primitive campsites along the trail located near creeks and other locations and some campsites have government provided pit toilets.

## Private Lodges

Private lodges along the trail can accommodate hikers that make reservations. Shuttle services are also available. For more information on shuttle services and lodges go to: [www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue).

## Safety

Emergency services can be contacted from the Smullin Visitor Center at Rand, Rogue River Ranch, Brushy Bar Guard Station and Foster Bar boat launch site May 15 through October 15. The Smullin Visitor Center at Rand is five miles upriver from Grave Creek, see back of booklet. You may also find help through the private lodges along the trail. Agness, nine miles downriver from Big Bend Trailhead, and Galice, seven miles upriver from Grave Creek Trailhead, are the nearest towns on either ends of the Rogue River Trail.

## Drinking Water

Potable drinking water is available at Galice Resort, Smullin Visitor Center at Rand, Rogue River Ranch and Foster Bar boat launch site. Water in creeks should be treated by boiling or filtration methods before consumption.

## Bears

Most bear problems occur in the lower third of the wild section of the Rogue River, Paradise Lodge to the camp Tacoma area. Campsites in this area feature bear boxes, food hoists, and bear fences. Bear fences are electrically charged enclosures. Bear boxes, fences and food hoists are structures designed to protect your food and garbage overnight and have proven to be effective at deterring raiding bears.



**Bear-proof boxes are located at:** Blossom Bar, Brushy Bar, and Camp Tacoma areas. **Food hoists are located at:** Blossom Bar, Brushy Bar, Tate Creek and Camp Tacoma areas. **Bear fences are located at:** Whiskey Creek, Horseshoe Bend, Mule Creek; Upper/ Middle/ and Lower Half Moon Bar; Brushy Bar, Upper and Lower Solitude, Upper and Lower Tate Creek and Upper and Lower Tacoma. Bear fences are available May 15 through October 15 and should be left on at all times. Remember to close the gate on bear fences before you leave camp. Check that the switch is on, this keeps the fence charged. Be prepared to share fences with other visitors.



Bear box.



Food hoist.

## Other Hazards

Watch out for poison oak, ticks, yellow jackets, rattlesnakes, black bears, land slides, winter high winds, winter high water in creeks and trees across the trail. Trail maintenance occurs April through June.

## Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics

People are drawn to the Rogue River to enjoy its scenery, wildness, and solitude. By practicing Leave No Trace techniques, visitors can do their part to preserve this natural beauty and minimize impacts on wildlife, plants, soil, water, air, and other people.

- *Plan Ahead and Prepare*
- *Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces*
- *Dispose of Waste Properly*
- *Leave What You Find*
- *Minimize Campfire Impacts*
- *Respect Wildlife*
- *Be Considerate of Other Visitors*



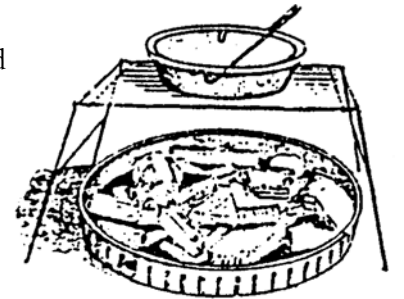
## Campfires

**1. Check for current fire regulations with the Smullin Visitor Center at Rand, 541-479-3735, or the Gold Beach Ranger District, 541-247-3600, before you start your trip.**

2. Remember that all open fires may be temporarily banned as hot, dry conditions continue during the summer.

3. The best Leave No Trace option is to cook on a gas or propane stove and not build a campfire.

4. Within 400 feet of the river, when fires are allowed, the fire **MUST** be built in a firepan. Firepans include a heavy duty baking pan, fire blanket,



or tarp with sand to contain the fire and leave the ground and rocks unscarred.

5. Beyond 400 feet of the river, hikers are still encouraged but not required to use a firepan. If you do build a campfire, be sure to build it on a sandy spot or bare ground away from trees, shrubs, and rocks.

6. Use only dead and down wood. Small wood will burn completely, providing good coals for cooking and ash that is easy to remove. Unburned wood should be packed out or scattered so evidence of the fire is not noticeable to future visitors to the site.

7. Do not use campfires to burn trash. Trash does not burn clean and can attract pests to the site. All trash, including all food, foil, and plastic items should be packed out.

## Human Waste

Minimizing contamination and maximizing decomposition are the primary goals when dealing with human waste. The BLM and Forest Service provide toilets at some campsites. At sites where toilets are not provided, please pack out human waste with an approved system, or use the “cat hole” method.

### Pack Out Systems

Approved pouch systems for the Rogue River are: a) Restop2 bags and b) Cleanwaste Wag Bags. Used bags can be deposited into trash receptacles at Foster Bar and Grave Creek. Used bags should not be deposited into pit toilets along the trail or into the scat machine at Foster Bar.

### Cat Hole Method

Dig a six inch or deeper hole in soil at least 200 feet from camp, the trail, the river, and all creeks. Cover waste with soil when done. Pack out all toilet paper and hygiene products.

## Waste Water

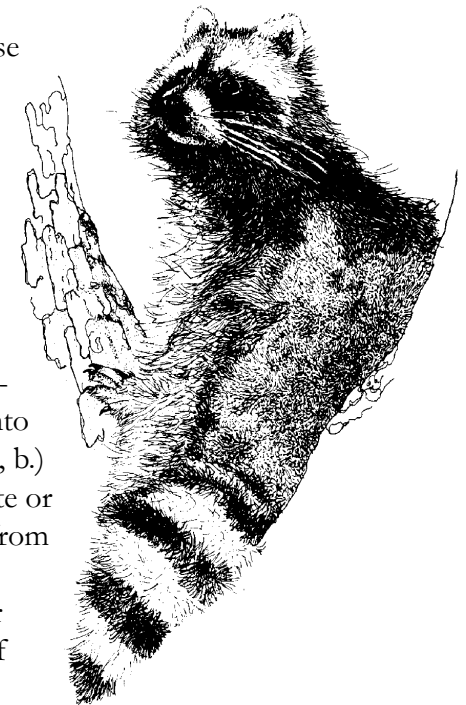
Waste or “grey” water includes soapy and dirty water from bathing, dishwashing, tooth brushing, and unwanted liquids from canned foods. If not disposed of properly, waste water can attract ants, stinging insects, bears, raccoons, and other campsite pests. Many campsites are used every night during the peak season. Do your part to keep a clean camp and keep pests at bay.

Do not bathe near or wash near side streams and use biodegradable soap.

To clean dishes properly, use boiling water and strain water to remove food particles. Pack them out with the rest of your trash. Strained waste water can be poured directly into flowing water in the main river, or be scattered in the bushes over a wide area more than 200 feet away from camp and side streams.

## Other Helpful Hints

- Use established campsites. Use established trails.
- Keep a clean camp to avoid attracting pests.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- If hiking with a dog(s), a.) deposit your dogs solid waste into a government provided toilet, b.) pack out your dogs solid waste or be sure it is at least 200 feet from camp, the trail, the river and all creeks and c.) control your dog(s) to avoid harassment of wildlife and other people.



- Please leave cultural resources where you find them. Removing artifacts is illegal.
- Many canyon visitors are seeking quiet, solitude and the beauty of nature; enjoy your visit and be courteous to others.

## How To Use This Trail Guide

The trail log starts at Grave Creek as mile zero. Continuing miles are from Grave Creek, which is the east trailhead of the Rogue River Trail. The term “north bank” refers to the same side of the river as the trail. In contrast, “south bank” refers to the opposite side of the river. Facilities are described in italics. Campsites that are accessible from the trail are described in this log.

Many campsites are sandy beaches next to the river. These sites may also be used by boaters. If you use a site next to the river, please be prepared to share with boaters. If you camp at a large site next to the river, and your group consists of less than ten people, please camp to one side of the site so another group may share the site with your group. Sites labeled "hikers" on the map are not usually used by boaters.

## Trail Log

### Mile Site

- 0.0 Grave Creek - north bank. The Rogue River Trailhead is located west of the boat landing. This is the beginning of the permitted section of the Rogue River.

Named after the grave of Martha Leland Crowley, daughter of a pioneer couple, who was buried under an oak tree near the stream in 1846.

The first five miles of the trail are quite rocky. Most of these rocks are part of the Rogue Formation. They are a result of lava flows and rocks formed by ancient volcanoes, which

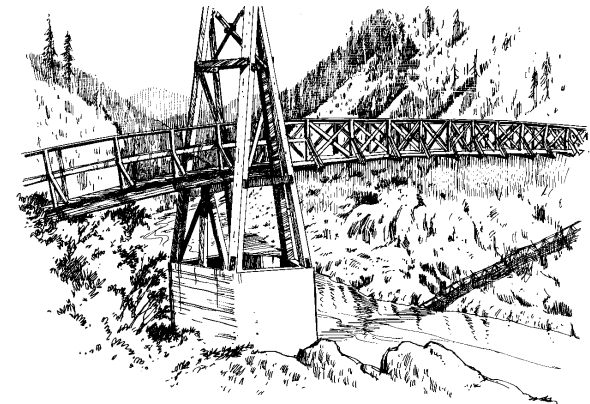
### Mile Site

were active about 140 million years ago. High temperatures and pressure have altered and folded these rocks into a nearly vertical position. Signs of this folding can be seen on the steep canyon walls, which have been carved by the powerful forces of the Rogue River over a period of nearly a million years.

- 0.1 Grave Creek Rapids

- 0.6 Sanderson Homesite - north bank. Here you can see the remains of a concrete foundation. This is all that remains of a home built by miners, the Sanderson brothers, in 1940. Look for more evidence of old mining operations at this site. The cabin was dismantled in 1971.

*Camping: Small site between the river and the trail; no water or toilet.*



*Sanderson Bridge, 1907 to 1927*

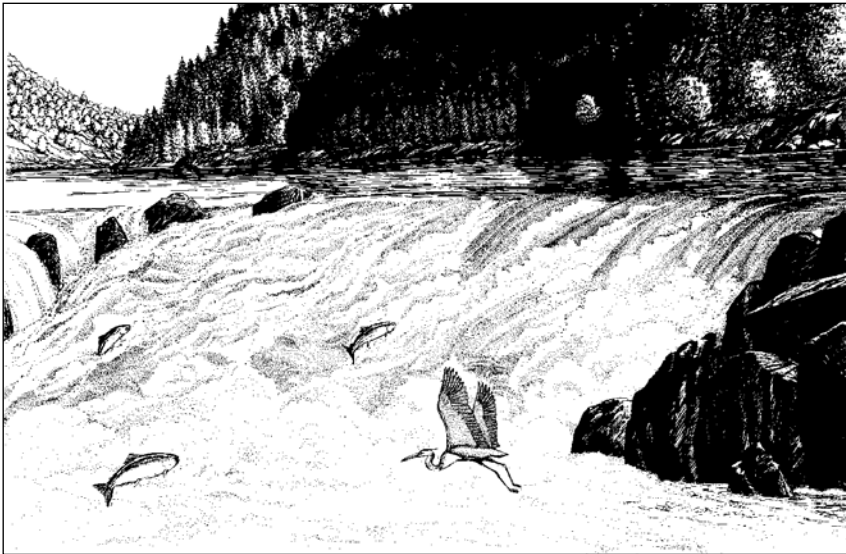
### Mile Site

- 1.2 Sanderson Bridge - Old concrete piers from this bridge are still visible on both sides of the river. Pack mules and people traveling on foot used this bridge. The bridge was destroyed by the 1927 flood.
- 1.3 Cabin - south bank. In the 1990s, remains of an old mining cabin could be found above the Sanderson Bridge pier on the south bank. Today, there may still be evidence of the cabin.

## Mile Site

- 1.7 Rainie Falls - A narrow zone of extremely durable amphibolite has made this area more resistant to erosion, resulting in a 15 to 20 foot high falls. The falls were named after old man Rainie who lived in a small cabin below the falls and made a living by gaffing salmon.

*Camping north bank: Large site under trees, between river and trail with toilet but no water. A two mile long trail on the south side of the river provides an excellent view of the falls.*



- 2.2 China Gulch - north bank. This gulch was named after the Chinese miners who worked in the area in the late 1800s. Around 1946, Joe Utassey (a miner) built a cabin on the north side of the river and planted apple and pear trees.

*Camping: Small site between river and trail; no water or toilet.*

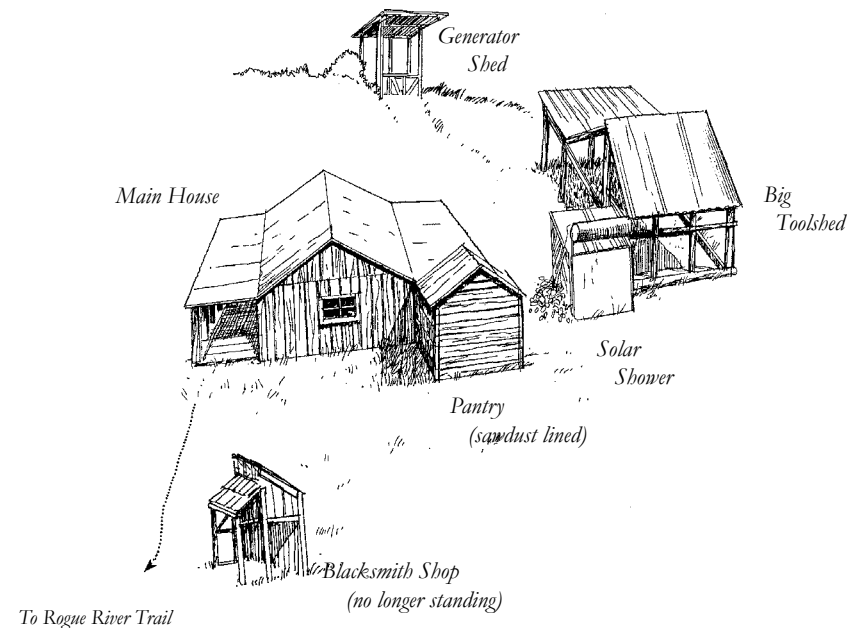
- 2.6 Hansen Saddle Fault - This fault zone, the first of two the trail crosses within a mile, is several hundred feet wide and marked by the presence of shiny, greenish-black rock called serpentine. These faults are major dislocations of the earth's crust and it is believed the serpentine has been squeezed like toothpaste out of a tube into these weakened zones from a deeper layer of the earth.

## Mile Site

- 3.3 Rum Creek - south bank. "Bedrock" Nell (a miner) lived on Rum Creek in the late 1920s and 1930s. Rum Creek is approximately ten degrees cooler and fresher than other creeks and salmon can often be found schooling at the mouth of the creek.

- 3.3 Whisky Creek - north bank. About 1/4 mile up the creek is Whisky Creek Cabin. This cabin was built by a placer miner around 1880. The last miner to live at this cabin (1957-1973) was Lou Reuben Martin. Whisky Creek Cabin is on the National Register of Historic Places, and offers a glimpse into the pioneer history of the Rogue River. **This and other cabins along the river are part of our national heritage and are for viewing only. Please do not remove or disturb features along the trail, they are what make the Rogue River Canyon a unique area to visit.**

*Camping: Large sites by river on both sides of the creek with toilet (east side) and water.*

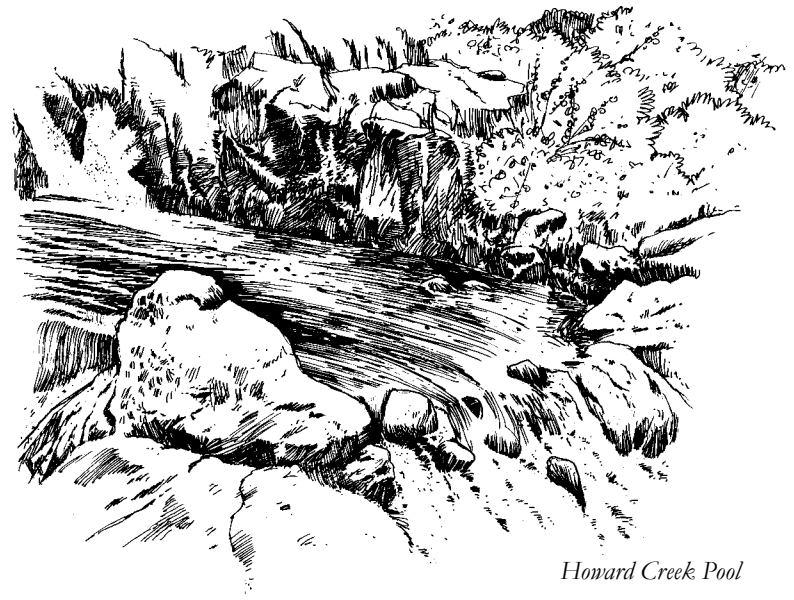


## Mile Site

- 3.3 Old Rogue River Trail - This was the trail used by miners and settlers in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The trail came in on the north from Mt. Reuben.
- 3.5 Cedar Mountain Fault - This fault zone, like Hansen Fault upstream, also contains serpentine with surfaces smoothed and polished by tremendous pressures generated by movements of the earth. At the trail level, most traces of this fault are covered by the gravel bar of Whisky Creek and landslide debris of Big Slide.
- 3.8 Big Slide - north bank. In the late 1800s, a landslide blocked the entire river, causing it to back up as far as Hellgate Canyon (15 miles upriver). Another small more active slide can be seen in the sheared rocks of the Cedar Mountain Fault zone just across the river from Big Slide camp.  
*Camping: Large park-like site next to trail; toilet, no water.*
- 3.9 Doe Creek -south bank.
- 4.4 Alder Creek - north bank. Lou Martin (see mile 3.1, Whisky Creek) mined for gold here, but was unsuccessful.
- 4.7 Booze Creek - north bank. Hardrock mining was attempted here but no gold was found. *Camping: Small site by creek after bridge; water, no toilet. View of Tyee Rapid - nice site.*
- 4.9 Tyee Rapids - north bank. Meaning “chief” in the Chinook language, Tyee is the site of a once-famous gold mine where 300 Chinese workers mined one million dollars’ worth of gold dust. *Camping: Small site by creek after bridge; water, no toilet. Large site by river.*

## Mile Site

- 5.3 Wildcat Rapids
- 5.7 Russian Creek - north bank. Named after a Russian gold prospector who lived in the area. *Camping: Small site after bridge; water, no toilet.*
- 6.1 Montgomery Creek - south bank. During the depression, there was extensive gold mining on Montgomery Creek. More than 25 buildings were located on the north bank of the river until they were destroyed in the 1955 flood.
- 6.6 Howard Creek - south bank.



Howard Creek Pool

- 7.1 Slate Slide - north bank. *Camping: Several small and medium sized sites between trail and river; no toilet or water. Nice area.*
- 7.4 Slim Pickens - A large steel tank, located on the south side of the river above the rapid, washed down from a dredge at Almeda mine in the 1955 flood.



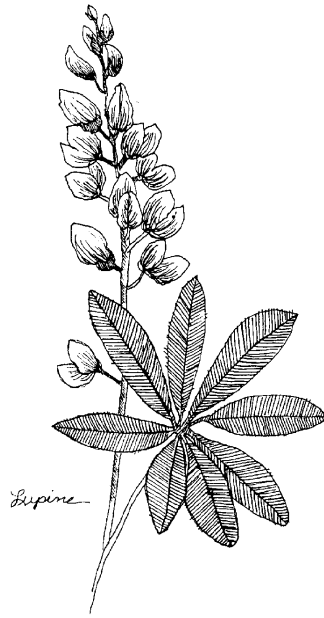
## Mile Site

7.5 Bronco Creek - north bank. The creek right after Slim Pickens. This was originally Jackass Creek (1855), named so because of the loss of a pack burro during an Indian skirmish.

8.9 Bunker Creek - north bank.  
*Camping: Small site before bridge, toward the river and small site after the bridge with water; no toilet.*

8.9 Big Windy Creek - south bank. Both Bunker and Big Windy Creeks were mined for gold.

9.3 Black Bar Lodge - south bank. Black Bar is named after William Black who was killed here, put into his boat, and shoved into the river by his assailant (see mile 13.2, Meadow Creek). The lodge was built in 1932 and has operated as a commercial lodge since the 1950s. The lodge has been owned and operated by the same family since the 1960s and *is open from May through early November. Reservations are required. Please respect the owners privacy. There is a well maintained trail that leads from the main trail to the river.*



10.1 Little Windy Creek - south bank, not visible from trail.

11.2 Jenny Creek - south bank. This is another site where gold was mined. The 1964 flood washed away much of the machinery that was located here. Miners used a cable car to cross the river and in 1855, this was the site of a battle between Indians and army volunteers. After five hours of fighting, the army volunteers gave up and left. *Camping: Large campsite by river; no water or toilet.*

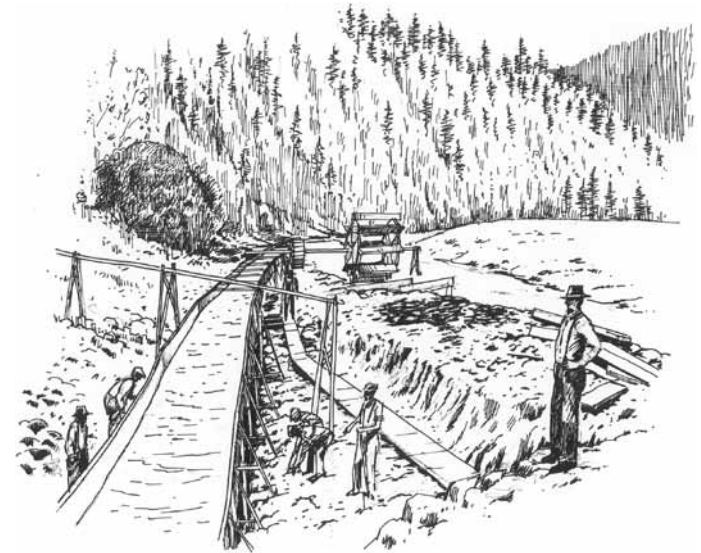
## Mile Site

11.4 Horseshoe Bend - This tight horseshoe-shaped curve was formed as the harder rock across the river forced the water into the adjacent softer rock. *Camping: Small, two-person campsite before creek along the trail and there is a large site by the river, be prepared to share with boaters.*

11.6 Shady Creek - north bank. Dry in summer.

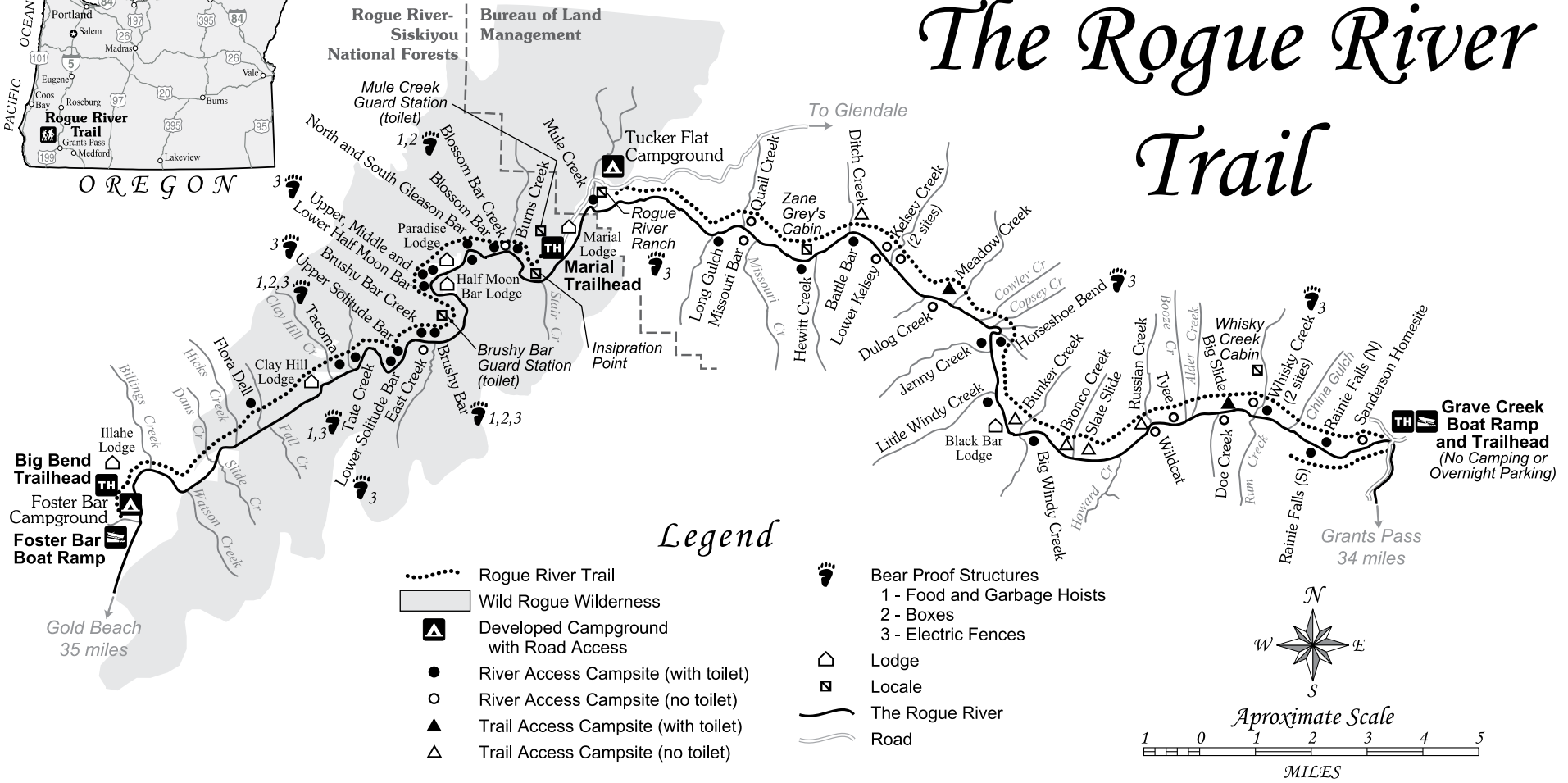
11.8 Francis Creek - north bank. Dry in summer.

12.0 Copsey Creek - north bank. Price Copsey mined the area around Horseshoe Bend. His cabin was located on the south side of the river, one and a half miles below Black Bar. *Camping: Small site with water; no toilet; Two picnic tables. Good flowing creek.*



Gold Bar Mine, Illabe c. 1915

# The Rogue River Trail



## Trail Mileage from Grave Creek

\* Public Toilet at Site

Foster Bar Boat Ramp*	40.6 miles
Foster Bar Campground*	40.5 miles
Big Bend Trailhead*	39.5 miles
Illaha Lodge	39.0 miles
Billings Creek	38.9 miles
Duns Creek	36.8 miles
Hicks Creek	35.7 miles
Flora Dell*	35.0 miles
Clay Hill Lodge	33.2 miles
Tacoma*	32.7 miles
Tate Creek*	32.5 miles
Lower Solitude Bar*	31.4 miles
Upper Solitude Bar*	31.2 miles
Brushy Bar*	30.5 miles
Lower Half Moon Bar*	30.2 miles
Upper Half Moon Bar*	28.6 miles
Paradise Lodge	28.5 miles
North Gleason Bar*	28.3 miles
Blossom Bar*	28.0 miles
Burns Creek*	27.4 miles
Inspiration Point	26.9 miles
Marial Trailhead*	26.5 miles
Mule Creek	26.4 miles
Marial Lodge	25.2 miles
Mule Creek Guard Station*	24.4 miles
Tucker Flat Campground*	24.0 miles
Rogue River Ranch*	23.9 miles
Quail Creek	23.0 miles
Zane Grey's Cabin	22.9 miles
Ditch Creek	22.7 miles
Kelsey Creek	19.0 miles
Meadow Creek	17.3 miles
Horseshoe Bend*	16.3 miles
Black Bar Lodge	15.0 miles
Bunker Creek	13.2 miles
Slate Slide	11.4 miles
Russian Creek	9.3 miles
Tyee	8.9 miles
Booze Creek	7.1 miles
Big Slide*	5.7 miles
Whiskey Creek Cabin	4.9 miles
Whiskey Creek*	4.7 miles
China Gulch	3.8 miles
Rainie Falls (N)*	3.3 miles
Sanderson Homestead	3.2 miles
Grave Creek Trailhead*	2.2 miles
	1.7 miles
	0.6 miles
	0.0 miles

## Mile Site

12.2 Cowley Creek - north bank. Good flowing creek. *Steep trail to Lower Horseshoe campsite by the river.*

13.2 Meadow Creek - north bank. Miners used a winch to move large boulders on this bar then mined the sand that had accumulated around the base of the boulders.

Henry Rosenbrook, otherwise known as Dutch Henry; homesteaded, raised cattle and grew fruit at this site. Dutch Henry was a German miner best known as a “gangly murderer.” He was tried, but acquitted, for the murders of his two mining partners. William Black (see mile 9.3, Black Bar Lodge) was Dutch Henry’s second victim. Dutch Henry died in the 1920’s leaving his name on the homestead and also his bones in the ground. *Camping: Two small sites by the creek with water; no toilet. Large site in big meadow just downriver with a toilet; no water.*

14.1 Dulog Creek - south bank. Dulog Rapid was blasted by Glen Wooldridge. Glen was one of the first Rogue River guides and he guided from 1917 to the 1970s. Wooldridge ran the first successful upriver trip from Gold Beach to Grants Pass in 1947.

15.0 Kelsey Creek - north bank. The creek and Kelsey Canyon are named for Colonel John Kelsey who led a group of territorial volunteers against Chief John’s Indian forces in the spring of 1856.

*Camping: Two medium sites with water. Trail site east of bridge, river site west of bridge; no toilet.*

16.1 Corral Creek - north bank.

16.3 Battle Bar - south bank. This was once the site of combat during the Rogue River Indian Wars of 1855-56. After the massacre of Indian families on Little Butte Creek, hostile elements broke out of the Table Rock Reservation on

## Mile Site

16.3 October 9, 1855. (Little Butte Creek and Table Rock Reservations are located near what is now Medford.) The Indians traveled down the north side of the Rogue killing settlers and burning dwellings. Fighting between the whites and the Indians extended as far downriver as Grave Creek until winter weather stopped the campaign.

The Indian families spent the winter near Battle Bar. In April of 1856, a detachment of soldiers was sent to the area to eliminate the Indians. The soldiers rode into the large clearing on the north side of the river and were promptly engaged in battle with the Indians who had abandoned their camp for the protection of the bar on the south side of the river. Though not a major battle, it was one of the skirmishes which led to the extraction of American Indians from the Rogue River Valley.

The roofed structure in place today was once a cabin built by Bob Fox. Mr. Fox planned to build a fishing resort but was unable to complete it because Jack Mahoney, a neighbor, shot and killed Mr. Fox on May 6, 1947. The 1964 flood destroyed the walls of the cabin but the roof and supports remained. In 1991, the BLM and veterans from the White City Veterans Administration Domiciliary refurbished the shelter.

16.3 Ditch Creek - north bank. This was the site of former placer mining activity as evidenced by the piles of gravel scattered about the creek. *Camping: Two campsites, one small and one medium sized; water, no toilet.*

16.3 Slide Creek - north bank

17.1 Hewitt Creek - south bank. The site of Jack Mahoney’s cabin (see mile 16.3, Battle Bar).



## Native Americans on the Rogue

Up until 1855, Takelma Indians lived along the Rogue River near Rainie Falls, upriver from Grants Pass, and beyond. The Takelma, as defined by language dialect, were divided into two, possibly three, distinct groups. The lowland Takelma, who called themselves Dagehma, meaning "those living alongside the river"; upland Takelma or Latgawa, meaning "those living in the uplands"; and the northern Takelma or Ha-ne-sakh, a group little is known about (Gray 2003 and 1987, Sapir 1907). The following are tribes who resided close to the Rogue River corridor and their language group:

- \*Rogue River drainage to Galice Creek - Taklema (Penutian speakers)
- \*Galice Creek - Tal-tuc-tun-te-de (Athapascan speakers)
- \*Applegate River - Da-ku-be-te-de (Athapascan speakers)
- \*Upper Illinois River - Gu-sla-dada (Athapascan speakers)
- \*Lower Illinois River and the Rogue River between present day Agness and Foster Bar - Shasta Costa or Chasta Costa (Athapascan speakers)
- \*Klamath River - Karok (Hokan speakers)

## Mile Site

- 17.1 Historic Kelsey Pack Trail - This is part of the original trail used by Native Americans and miners. The trail is a 4.5 mile loop that leaves the main trail at Winkle Bar and joins it again at Quail Creek. The trail is not maintained and difficult to find.
- 17.3 Winkle Bar - north bank. Western writer Zane Grey bought the mining claim for this site from a prospector in 1926. Grey then had his cabin built and used it for a place to stay while he was fishing and writing.
- 18.7 Missouri Creek/Bar - south bank. This area experienced heavy gold mining. Gerald Frye lived here from the 1950s until his death in 1987. Gerald was John and Adeline Billings' grandson (see Billings Creek, mile 38.9).

Born in 1916 at Big Meadow, Gerald was raised in the canyon and lived here most of his life. He worked as the caretaker of Zane Grey's cabin, assisted the BLM in construction of the Rogue River Trail and worked at Rogue River Ranch when it belonged to the Andersons (see mile 22.7, Rogue River Ranch).



## Mile Site

- 19.0 Quail Creek - north bank. Site of the Quail Creek Fire of 1970. This human-caused fire burned 2800 acres and claimed the life of one man, Luis Rodriguez (see mile 21.2).  
*Camping : Small site by river; water; no toilet.*
- 19.7 Long Gulch - south bank. Several cabins were built here by Glen Wooldridge (see mile 14.1, Dulog Creek).
- 21.2 Rodriguez Memorial - north bank. Luis Rodriguez died when struck by a falling tree while fighting the Quail Creek Fire.
- 21.2 John's Riffle - Named after Chief John, leader of the Indian tribes during the Rogue Indian wars of 1855-1856 (see mile 16.3, Battle Bar).
- 22.7 Rogue River Ranch - north bank. The Ranch is considered to be part of the Marial community (see mile 24.3). The terraces on both sides of the mouth of Mule Creek (viewed from the ranch) were seasonal Indian camps for over 8,000 years.

The two-story main house is now called the museum. The main house was built in 1903 by George Washington Billings (oldest son of John and Adeline Billings). George operated a trading post, post office and boarding house here with his wife, Sarah Ann. The ranch was a popular gathering place with a barn known as the "Tabernacle" serving as a focal point. The ground floor of the tabernacle was used to stable horses and mules and the top floor was used for storage, dances, parties and Sunday worship services.

## Mile Site

- 22.7 In 1931, George Billings sold the ranch for \$5,000 to Stanley Anderson who expanded the house and added a caretaker house, bunkhouse, tackroom, woodshed and storage shed. The Andersons used the ranch as a recreational homesite until 1970, when they sold it to the Bureau of Land Management under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The ranch is on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Visitors are welcome to visit the ranch area and look inside the museum. BLM volunteer caretakers maintain the Ranch and keep it open for visitors May 15 to October 15. Emergency radio communications and drinking water (from a faucet near the caretaker's house) are available May 15 to October 15. The trail continues on the road to Tucker Flat Campground and downriver to Marial Trailhead, at the end of Marial Road.*



*Rogue River Ranch, 2003*

## Mile Site

- 22.8 Marial Road - follow to the west. Trail runs on this road about two miles from the Rogue River Ranch to the Marial Trailhead.
- 22.9 Tucker Flat Campground - north bank. Take road to the north, right, if you are traveling downriver, off Marial Road to access the campground and the Wild Rogue Wilderness. Mule Creek Trail begins at the north end of the campground and eventually connects with the Panther Ridge Trail (see mile 33.1, Clay Hill Trail). *Camping: Developed BLM campground on Mule Creek, accessible by car, with 6 sites, pit toilets, trash cans, picnic tables, and untreated water.*
- 23.0 Mule Creek - north bank. This creek was named in the summer of 1852 when a company of soldiers from Fort Orford tried to open a trail along the Rogue. A member of the party later related that a Lt. R.S. Williamson rode a mule named John. When the mule was turned loose to graze near the stream, it wandered off and was not found despite a thorough search. Because of this incident, the stream was named John Mule Creek, but later shortened to Mule Creek. The tale ended happily several years later when Williamson found his mule. *Camping: Tucker Flat or at large sites by the river with toilets upriver and downriver from Mule creek. Drinking water is available at the Ranch (mile 22.7) and from Mule Creek, after treatment.*



## Mile Site

- 23.9 Marial Lodge - north bank. The lodge and the community of Marial were named after the first proprietress of the lodge, Marial Billings Akesson. Marial was born in 1894, to Tom (son of John and Adeline Billings, see mile 38.9) and Anna Billings. Marial was raised on the river. In the 1930s the lodge was home to Marial and her parents. Then in the 1940s Marial began operating the lodge commercially. Marial sold the lodge to Ted Camp who ran the lodge from 1966 to 1982, when the present owners began running it.

The Post Office located at Marial was unique. As late as 1963, mail was transported to Agness by mule or horse from Marial, and then to Gold Beach by boat, as there were no roads. The old pioneer cemetery near the end of the road is the burial spot for several old families of local importance. *The lodge is open from May to November, reservations are required. This is a private lodge, please respect the owners privacy.*



- 24.0 Mule Creek Guard Station - USFS guard station, not staffed, toilet.

## Mile Site

- 24.4 Marial Trailhead/ End of Marial Road - *there is a toilet and a small parking area, room for about ten cars. Free overnight parking is allowed at this trailhead.*

From the Marial Trailhead west to Dans Creek, you are traveling through the Wild Rogue Wilderness, more than 35,000 acres where ecosystems remain undeveloped and intact, natural processes unfold without intervention, and humans may visit but not stay. It is a place carefully managed to protect its primeval character and maintain its opportunities for solitude.

The next 2 miles of trail are particularly scenic. After a few hundred yards through the forest, the trail comes out on the cliffs above Mule Creek Canyon.

- 24.8 Coffeepot - The Coffeepot is a churning semi-whirlpool, one mile from the beginning of Mule Creek Canyon. The river bounces off the canyon walls creating diagonal waves and tricky currents. This is the narrowest passage on the river.
- 25.2 Stair Creek - south bank. Stair Creek Falls.
- 25.2 Inspiration Point - Inspiration Point overlooks Stair Creek Falls from the north bank. The trail is on a narrow ledge high on the cliff. Cool pools can be seen below where salmon gather in the summer. *Camping: Small site; no water, no toilet.*
- 26.4 Burns Creek - *Camping: Small site; with water and toilet.*
- 26.5 Blossom Bar Creek - Named after the wild azaleas that bloom here. There is a bear box and a food hoist downstream from the creek.

## Mile Site

- 26.6 Blossom Bar - Blossom Bar was the site of a stamp mill used in mining operations. The rapids used to be impassable until Glen Wooldridge (see mile 14.1, Dulong Creek) blasted out the rocks to clear passage. It is the most difficult water to navigate on the river. *Camping: Large site with a toilet at the lower end of the Blossom Bar area.*
- 26.7 Devils Staircase - A series of pour-offs.
- 26.9 North Gleason Bar - north bank. *Camping: Small site with a toilet. Note: Two trails lead to this sight: one before, one after.*
- 27.3 Paradise Creek - north bank. The creek cascades over a rock wall into the Rogue from the north. Some years there are sand deposits at this site permitting camping while others the sand is washed away. *Camping: Small site with water.*
- 27.4 Paradise Bar Lodge - north bank. Jet powered mail boats bring passengers upstream to this lodge. The main lodge was built in 1959 by Deak and Louise Miller. *The lodge is open April through mid-November. Reservations are required. Please respect the owners privacy.*
- 28.3 Half Moon Bar Lodge - south bank. *Private lodge, reservations required. Please respect private property at the lodge and at nearby homes.*
- 28.3 Upper Half Moon Bar - north bank. *Camping: Small site near trail with a toilet, large site by the river with a bear fence.*
- 28.5 Middle Half Moon Bar - north bank. *Camping: Small site by the river with a toilet and a bear fence.*
- 28.6 Lower Half Moon Bar - north bank. *Camping: Large campsite by the river with a toilet and a bear fence.*

## Mile Site

- 29.0 Huggins Canyon - This section of the Rogue was named by Glen Wooldridge (see mile 14.1, Dulog Creek) after a local hunter, Andy Huggins. Huggins lived for many years at Half Moon Bar and his grave is also at Half Moon Bar, on the south side of the river (mile 28.3).
- 30.0 Sturgeon Hole - The hole is 70 feet deep with a small waterfall coming into the river on the south bank.
- 30.2 Brushy Bar Guard Station - This is a USFS guard station that is staffed by volunteers May 15 through October 15. Emergency services can be contacted by radio from this location. *Creek water is available and needs to be treated before drinking.*
- 30.5 Brushy Bar - north bank. Forest fires burned this area in 1905 and resulted in low dense brush growing over the area, thus the name - brushy bar. Mining was extensive here, and ditches are still evident. *Camping: There are plenty of areas to camp under the trees and there are a few small camp areas by the river. There are two toilets, a bear fence, a bear box and two food hoists in this area.*
- The Devils Backbone Trail connects to the Rogue River Trail at Brushy Bar and goes up to the Devils Backbone Ridge and then back down to the Rogue River Trail near Upper Half Moon Bar campsite (mile 28.3). The Devils Backbone Trail follows the original location of the Rogue River Trail before it was relocated. Beware, the Devils Backbone Trail has steep grades and sharp drop offs.
- 30.5 East Creek - south bank. This is the site of the former “General’s Cabin” owned by Generals Eakers, Spaatz, LeMay, Anderson, and Twining. The land was sold to the group by Wooldridge (see mile 14.1, Dulog) as a former mining claim.

## Mile Site

- 31.0 Captain Tichnors Defeat - historic marker on trail
- 31.2 Upper Solitude Bar - north bank. *Camping: Large site by the river, with a toilet and a bear fence, no water.*
- 31.4 Lower Solitude Bar - north bank. This location bustled with mining activity around 1900. A large arrastra wheel is lying in the brush on the south bank at this site. An arrastra was sometimes used in early mining operations to break up the ore and ease the extracting of minerals. *Camping: Large site by the river, with a toilet and a bear fence, no water.*
- 32.5 Tate Creek - north bank. *Camping: There is a small campsite upriver from Tate Creek, with little benches by a rock, called Upper Tate Creek, with a bear fence. There is another small campsite downriver from Tate Creek bridge, below the trail with a toilet and a food hoist. There are two more small campsites downriver from Tate Creek near the river, rafters also use these two site sites. There is a bear fence near these two sites and the site closest to the river is called Lower Tate Creek. Drinking water is available from the creek. Treat the water before drinking it.*
- 32.7 Upper, Middle and Lower Tacoma - north bank. Named after a mining operation from Tacoma, Washington. Extensive mining was done in this area early in the 20th century. *Camping: Two large sites and a small site by the river with nearby creek water (needs treatment before drinking), two toilets, a food hoist, a bear box and three bear fences.*
- 33.1 **Clay Hill Trail** begins here. This trail is steep and connects to the **Panther Ridge Trail**, provides access to the **Wild Rogue Wilderness** (see mile 22.9, Tucker Flat Campground).



## Mile Site

- 33.2 Clay Hill Creek and Lodge - north bank. Hathaway Jones' wife, Flora Dell Thomas, was born here. Hathaway Jones (1870-1937) was a local packer, mail carrier, and story teller. Glen Wooldridge (see mile 14.1, Dulog Creek) bought Clay Hill homestead in 1942 and began using the homestead as a fishing lodge. *Private lodge; open May through November; reservations required. Please respect the lodge owners privacy.*
- 35.0 Flora Dell Creek - The creek is named after Flora Dell Thomas, Hathaway Jones' wife (see mile 33.2, Clay Hill Creek). Flora Dell Creek plunges over a 30 foot sheer wall into a deep trailside pool.
- 35.0 Flora Dell Creek - *Camping: Small site by the river; water and toilet. The toilet is downriver from the creek and above the trail.*
- 35.1 Flea Creek
- 25.7 Hicks Creek - north bank. Large field, old homestead. *Camping: Large site with creek water and no toilet.*
- 36.8 Dans Creek - North bank. *Camping: Small campsite.*

From Dans Creek east to the Marial Trailhead, you are traveling through the Wild Rogue Wilderness, more than 35,000 acres where ecosystems remain undeveloped and intact, natural processes unfold without intervention, and humans may visit but not stay. It is a place carefully managed to protect its primeval character and maintain its opportunities for solitude.

## Mile Site

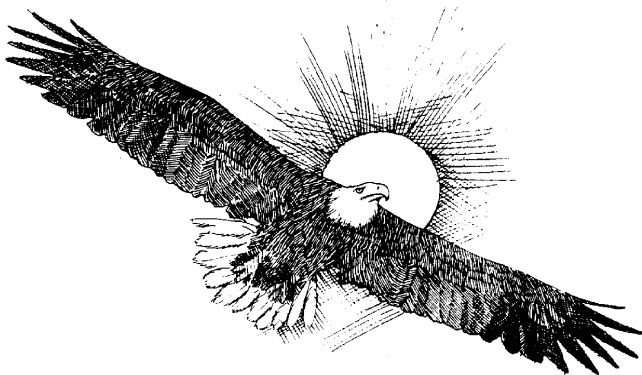
- 38.0 Big Bend - Site of the last battle of the 1855-1856 Indian wars. The 30 hour battle began on May 27, 1856. Two days later the Upper Rogue Band of Indians surrendered to Colonel Buchanan at Big Bend. Nearly 1200 Indians from southern Oregon were transported by steamer and land to the Siletz Reservation 125 miles to the north. This ended the days of the Indians in the Rogue River Canyon.
- 38.5 Curts Creek - Trail goes uphill around earth flow and follows an old road before reconnecting with Rogue River Trail.
- 38.9 Billings' Creek - north bank. The creek was named after John Billings. John (a miner) and his wife Adeline (a Karok Indian) moved from the Klamath River to the mouth of the Illinois River in 1868 with their 3 children.
- Kov-rhom-nic-ef-sho-pete was Adeline's Indian name. Adeline also had the less formal name of Krum-ket-tika, which means "a flower growing in any place." The Billings moved to what is now called Billings Creek in 1878, with their family that had grown to 7 children. John built and operated a grist mill that served settlers for miles around.
- By 1882, the Billings family was complete with 10 children. They moved again in 1891 to the mouth of Mule Creek.
- Their last move was in 1894 when John and Adeline moved with their 2 youngest daughters to Big Meadow (about 4 miles northeast of the Rogue River Ranch). *Camping: Campsite between the river and the trail.*
- 39.0 Illahé Lodge - north bank. Illahé is the Chinook word meaning "land on earth." Private lodge, please respect lodge owners privacy.

## Mile Site

- 39.5 Big Bend Trailhead - West part of Big Bend Meadow, USFS (west) trailhead with *free overnight parking and a toilet*.
- 40.5 Foster Bar Campground, Boat Launch and Foster Creek - north bank. Named after Charles Foster, miner, packer and lieutenant in the military during the 1855 Indian wars. Foster escaped an Indian attack at this site and worked his way downriver to Port Orford (then Fort Orford). After the Indian wars, Foster returned to settle in this area and married Catherine (a Karok Indian). *Camping: Developed USFS fee campground, accessible by car, with eight sites (\$10 per site per night, 2011), flush toilets, dumpsters, and drinking water. Popular boat take-out from the wild section of the Rogue River. Campground has a host May 15 through October 15.*

Quosatana Campground - is about 15 miles toward Gold Beach from Foster Bar. Quosatana features 43 campsites (\$15 per site per night, 2011), restrooms, drinking water, a pay phone, a trailer dump station, fish cleaning station and a boat ramp. Open year-round; Camp host on sight.

Lobster Creek Campground - is about 20 miles toward Gold Beach from Foster Bar. Lobster Creek features seven campsites (\$10 per site per night, 2011), restrooms, drinking water, a pay phone, and a boat ramp. This is the last public boat ramp before Gold Beach.



## References

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*Notes on the Takelma Indians of Southwestern Oregon*, American Anthropologist. Volume 9, Number 2:251-275, by Edward Sapir, 1907.

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*Rogue River Float Guide*, USDI, Bureau of Land Management, Medford District and USDA, Forest Service, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 2004.

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## For more information:

Go to the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River website:

Home page: [www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue)  
or

Maps and Publications page: [www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/maps-publications.php](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/maps-publications.php)

- Rogue River Trail
- Shuttle Routes and Services
- Bears
- Portable Toilets
- Campfire Regulations
- Lodges
- Permits
- Leave No Trace Practices
- Rogue River Boating
- Rogue River Ranch
- Whisky Creek Cabin

## For More Information

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[www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/)

Smullin Visitor Center at Rand

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[www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue](http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

#### **U.S. Forest Service**

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