



Lava Flows

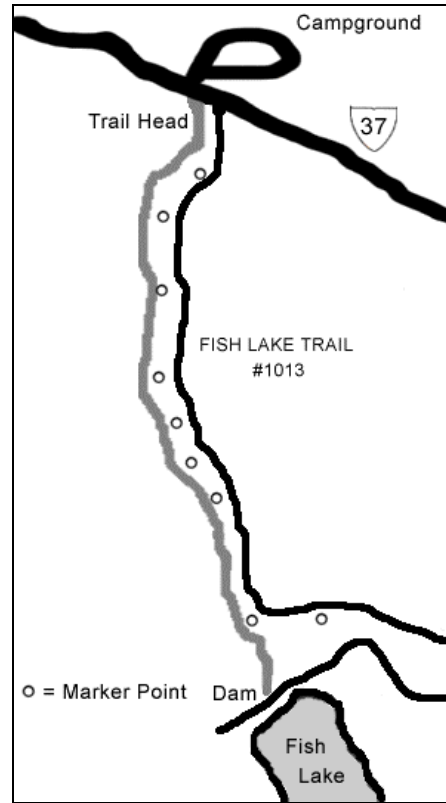
Along the trail you will see rugged lava flows composed mostly of the mineral andesite. These 20,000-year old flows were created by the last eruption of Brown Mountain. Cold water, from springs and melted snow, filters through the lava and enters the North Fork Little Butte Creek. The lava flows provide habitat for mammals like Pikas and Yellowbelly Marmots.



Fish Lake Dam

After 1900, with the need for irrigation water to supply the pear orchards of the Rogue Valley, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) built Fish Lake Dam. The dam raised the existing level of the lake and provided improved recreational opportunities for fishing and boating. The USACE modified Fish Lake Dam in 1996 by constructing an auxiliary spillway, and adding a rock buttress on the downstream face of the dam.

As you finish the Brochure please place it in the marked box at the last point. Feel free to continue along the trail towards Fish Lake. Thank you.



Produced by Christopher Knox
Big Pines District, Crater Lake Council.
Troop 112. Ashland, Oregon
as partial fulfillment for Eagle Scout Badge.
Mentored by Ian Reid, Rogue River National Forest.
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NORTH FORK LITTLE BUTTE CREEK TRAIL INTERPRETIVE GUIDE



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Produced in partnership with
Christopher Knox
Boy Scouts of America

Welcome to The North Fork Little Butte Creek Trail. This is a unique area full of diverse habitats and wildlife. Take time to follow this brochure as it guides you through your trail experience. Along the trail you will find markers that correspond to text in this brochure.

1 Woodpecker Tree

As you hike the trail you will see several dead trees or snags that have become home for a variety of cavity-nesting birds such as the large and colorful Pileated Woodpecker. A variety of woodpeckers inhabit this area; the main species include the Pileated, Lewis's, and Northern Flicker. If you listen hard you can hear the woodpeckers working away at a nearby tree; if you are lucky you may be able to catch a glimpse of one.

2 Beaver Sign

The beaver is the largest North American rodent. A once-prized furbearer, beavers inhabit waterways of every North American state and Canadian Province. A unique paddle-shaped tail distinguishes the species and its self-sharpening teeth allow them to mow down sizable trees, which you can see here. Beaver often alter the landscape with the construction of dams, canals, and lodges. Contrary to some beliefs, beavers do not eat fish, but are strict herbivores. If you quietly walk the trail at dawn or dusk you may catch this furry engineer at work.

3 Creek Overlook

You are standing in a riparian area, a zone comprised of a stream and its banks. Riparian areas have a diverse assemblage of plants and animals, and provide food, water, breeding grounds, wintering habitat, and migration corridors for a variety of birds, and a suitable refuge for mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Animals seen along this creek include black bear, mink, common garter snake, black-tailed deer, beaver, raccoon, Roosevelt elk, golden-mantled squirrel, silver-haired bat, and many others.

4 Beaver Dam

This dam is constructed of sticks, mud, brush, and stones. As time goes by, the beaver colony repairs and adds to the dam. Beaver dams create rearing and overwintering habitat for fish by forming deep pools. Beaver ponds eventually fill with sediment, and the animals move to a new location. The abandoned area becomes wet meadowland for other riparian inhabitants.

5 Pacific Yew Tree

This Pacific yew tree is unique to the Pacific Northwest and portions of the Rocky Mountains. Although it's grouped with the conifers, because it has needle-like foliage, it bears fruit--not a cone. Even though the berries look inviting, DON'T TASTE THEM, for they are poisonous. Pacific yew bark contains a natural chemical called Taxol, which was instrumental in developing certain cancer treatment drugs. Pacific yew is usually found in riparian areas and requires heavy shade.

6 Wet Meadow Community

Wet meadows provide food and shelter for different organisms at different times of the year. Wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and shrubs flourish in sunny areas that are soggy in spring and fall, but may dry out in the summer months. These plants are the favored food for butterflies and other insects. In the spring, frog and toad tadpoles can seek cover in this flooded vegetation. Birds and mammals visit wet meadows to eat, drink, and rest. Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, American Dipper, Steller's Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Mountain Chickadee are just some of the birds found in this area. Which birds did you see along the trail?



7 Brook Trout

Here eastern brook trout feeding on insects dimple the water in the morning and evening hours. Brook trout are not native to this area, but were introduced to provide additional fishing opportunities. Brook trout thrive in cold water, and vary in size according to their genetics, water temperature, and the amount of competition and food in the area. A mature fish from a large lake may be 18 inches long, while a fish of the same age living in this stream may only be 8 inches long. Native cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout may also inhabit this section of the creek.