

**USDA, FOREST SERVICE
UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST**

Heppner Ranger District
P.O. Box 7
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(541) 676-9187

Cabin Rental Information

**DITCH CREEK GUARD STATION CABIN
TAMARACK LOOKOUT CABIN**



Ditch Creek Guard Station Cabin

Cabin rental is quickly becoming one of the most popular recreational opportunities the Heppner Ranger District has to offer. The District currently has two cabins available, but due to demand, plans are being made to include another two cabins in the program. Ditch Creek Cabin has been available for rent since October of 1996, and Tamarack Lookout Cabin has been available since May of 2000. The Heppner Ranger District offers other year-round recreational opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, wildlife and scenery viewing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and just good old fashioned camping.

Please contact the Heppner Ranger District at (541) 676-9187 if you would like more information about Ditch Creek or Tamarack Lookout Cabins or the surrounding area. However to rent the cabins, reservations must be made with the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at <http://ReserveUSA.com>, or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

DITCH CREEK GUARD STATION CABIN

History and Information

Ditch Creek Guard Station was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934 or 1935. The cabin is a classic example of building construction by CCC crews on the Umatilla National Forest. It is located at an elevation of 4,800 feet near Ditch Creek, which is one of numerous small perennial streams that flow south off the District into the North Fork John Day River. The building complex is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The cabin is a one-story building consisting of a bedroom, living room, bathroom with shower, and kitchen with nook. It is not accessible to wheelchairs due to narrow doors and hallways. The cabin is furnished with water; however, it is only turned on from mid May through mid October due to weather conditions.

There are two bunk beds and a dresser in the bedroom and a table with four chairs, two easy chairs and a heating stove in the living room. The kitchen has a refrigerator, cook stove, fire extinguisher, cookware, silverware and dishes. The nook has two additional chairs and a small table. There is a water heater and a utility closet in the entrance area with a mop, broom, and cleaning supplies. All appliances and lighting are propane, which is provided by the Forest Service.

Outside, there is a picnic table, fire pit, and a 20' x 20' horse corral for use by cabin renters. The fire pit may only be used during acceptable fire danger levels (inquire at the District Office prior to arrival).

TAMARACK LOOKOUT CABIN

History and Information

Tamarack Lookout Cabin was used as housing for Forest Service personnel who used the lookout for fire detection. The original cabin was built in 1934 and destroyed by an accidental fire in 1966. A garage/utility shed was then converted to the existing cabin. Tamarack Mountain is located at an elevation of 4,979 feet and overlooks the John Day River basin, between Spray and Kimberly.

The cabin is a one-room facility and is furnished with a cook stove, refrigerator, cookware, silverware, dishes, a heating stove, and two bunk beds. All appliances and lighting are propane, which is provided by the Forest Service.

Outside, there is a fire pit and picnic table. The fire pit may only be used during acceptable fire danger levels (inquire at the District Office prior to arrival).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The cabins provide many luxuries to outdoor camping, however, there are several things you will still need to bring with you in addition to the "normal" camping supplies. Suggested items are garbage bags (pack it in, pack it out), candles or a lantern for emergencies, first aid kit, sleeping bag/bedding, potable water, toiletries, washcloths and towels, dish soap, and bar soap.

DITCH CREEK GUARD STATION CABIN

Directions

Ditch Creek Guard Station is located approximately 26.5 miles southeast of Heppner. From west I-84 take Hwy 74 exit to Lexington/Heppner. Drive 45 miles through the towns of Lone and Lexington to Heppner. Continue south, on Hwy 207, just outside the southern limits of Heppner, take a left (east) on Willow Creek Rd (paved). Travel 23 miles past Willow Creek Lake, Cutsforth County Park, and up Coalmine Hill. At the top of the hill, FS Rd 21 joins Willow Creek Rd. The route from I-84 to this junction is also part of the Blue Mountain Scenic Byway and is periodically marked with signs indicating it as such. Take a right (west) on Rd 21 (gravel) and travel 3.5 miles. The cabin is located on a hill on the north side of the road and is accessed by two short entrance roads (FS Rd 050 and 051).

From Ukiah take FS Rd 53, west. Cross Hwy 395 and continue on Rd 53 to its junction with FS Rd 21 (approximately 23 miles from Ukiah). Take a left (west) on Rd 21 (gravel) and follow the directions above to the cabin.

From Central Oregon, take Hwy 207 (north), 3 miles east of Spray. Travel 17 miles to the junction of Hwy 207 and FS Rd 21. Turn right (east) on Rd 21 (gravel) and travel 27.5 miles past Tupper Guard Station to the cabin.

The upper portions of Willow Creek Rd and FS Rd 21 are not plowed during the winter, so the closest parking may be 5.5 miles away at Cutsforth Park. The first two miles are uphill, 4-8% grade. Contact the Heppner Ranger District for information regarding current road conditions.

TAMARACK LOOKOUT CABIN

Directions

Tamarack Lookout Cabin is located approximately 43 miles south of Heppner. From west I-84 take Hwy 74 to Lexington/Heppner. Drive 45 miles through the towns of Lone and Lexington to Heppner. Continue south on Hwy 207 for 39 miles through Heppner, Ruggs, Hardman and past Anson Wright County Park to the junction of Hwy 207 and FS Rd 24 (.10 miles past the Bull Prairie Campground turn off). Turn left (east) on Rd 24 (gravel) and travel 6.5 miles to FS Rd 2407. Turn right (south) on Rd 2407 and travel 1.5 miles to FS Rd 040. Travel .5 miles on Rd 040 to the cabin. The cabin is on the left before you get to the lookout.

From Ukiah take FS Rd 53, west. Cross Hwy 395 and continue on Rd 53 to its junction with FS Rd 21 (approximately 23 miles from Ukiah). Take a left (west) on Rd 21 (gravel) and travel 31 miles past Ditch Creek Guard Station and Tupper Guard Station to Hwy 207. Take a left (south) on Hwy 207 and travel 6.5 miles to the junction of Hwy 207 and FS Rd 24 (.10 miles past the Bull Prairie Campground turn off). Take a left (east) on Rd 24 (gravel) and follow the directions above to the cabin.

From Central Oregon take Hwy 207 (north), 3 miles east of Spray. Travel 10.5 miles to the junction of Hwy 207 and FS Rd 24. Take a right (east) on Rd 24 and follow the directions above to the cabin.

FS Rd 24 to the cabin is not plowed during the winter; therefore, access to the cabin may be limited. A pickup with high clearance is recommended 12 months out of the year. Contact the Heppner Ranger District for information regarding current road conditions.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Heppner Ranger District offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities that can be accessed from both Ditch Creek Guard Station and Tamarack Lookout. There are over 26 miles of trails throughout the District that are available for hiking or horseback riding.

Fishing opportunities exist in streams throughout the District, as well as Penland Lake (electric motors only) and Bull Prairie Lake (no motors allowed).

The District has two hunt units and is very popular for big game and game bird hunting.

The West End Off-Highway Vehicle Area (FS Rd 22 west) consists of over 91,000 acres open to Class I and III all terrain vehicles. Morrow County OHV Park is also located nearby.

Wintertime brings opportunities for snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. The local Snowmobile Club, 4-Corners, takes on the responsibility for grooming 110 of the 173 miles of road designated for snowmobiling.

FEES AND AVAILABILITY

Ditch Creek Guard Station Cabin and Tamarack Lookout Cabin are available for public use year-round. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and must be made with the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) online at <http://www.ReserveUSA.com>, or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

The fee for Ditch Creek is \$40.00 per night with a capacity of six adults, and \$25.00 per night with a capacity of four adults at Tamarack. The person who makes the reservation must be at least 21 years of age and must be at the cabin during use. Children may not be left unattended in the facility at any time. Check-in time at the cabins is 1:00 p.m. and checkout time is 12:00 p.m.

Length of stay is limited to fourteen nights. Members of the same party may not reserve the cabin consecutively.

Parking space at Ditch Creek Cabin is limited. The number of vehicles and RV's must be kept to a minimum to maintain easy access to the cabin and quick departure in case of an emergency.

The cabins are secured with a combination lock. NRRS will provide you with the combination upon confirmation of your reservation.

DITCH CREEK GUARD STATION CABIN

Inventory List	
UTILITY/BROOM CLOSET	KITCHEN
Mop	Propane light fixture
Broom	Propane stove
Dustpan	Propane refrigerator
5 gallon bucket	Window curtain (3)
Mop bucket	Table stand
Toilet brush	Wooden chair (2)
Cleaning supplies	Fire extinguisher
Wash tub (2)	Cake pan (2)
Scrub brush (3)	Cookie sheet
	Muffin pan
LIVING ROOM	Broiler pan
Wooden table	Fry pan (5)
Wooden chair (4)	Griddle
Easy chair (2)	Dutch oven
Propane light fixture (2)	Small sauce pan (5)
Propane stove	Coffee kettle (2)
Window curtain (3)	Pitcher (3)
Wall picture (2)	Mixing bowl (3)
	Dish strainer
BATHROOM	12 piece silverware set
Wall picture	12 piece dinner set
Window curtain	Can opener
Propane light fixture	Pop bottle opener
Plunger	Serving spoon (2)
Toilet brush	Spatula
	Pancake turner (4)
BEDROOM	Measuring cups
Wall picture	Measuring spoons
Propane light fixture	Wooden spoon (3)
Dresser	Ladle
Window curtain (2)	Cheese grader
Bunk bed with mattress (2)	Garbage can
Additional Items You May Want To Bring	
Portable water	Ax and shovel
Garbage bags (pack it in, pack it out)	Water bucket
Sleeping bag/bedding and pillow	Dish, bath towels, wash cloths
Matches	Dish washing soap, bar soap
Candles or lantern (for emergencies)	Food and spices
Bug repellent	Toilet paper and paper towels
First aid kit	Flashlight with batteries

TAMARACK LOOKOUT CABIN

Inventory List	
Mop and bucket	12 piece dinner set
Broom	8 piece silverware set
Dustpan	Fry pan (1)
Cleaning supplies	Sauce pan (3)
Propane light fixture (3)	Can opener
Propane heating stove	Measuring cups
Propane cook stove	Measuring spoons
Propane refrigerator	Wooden spoon
Wooden table	Spatula
Wooden chairs (5)	Wire whisk
Bunk bed with mattress (2)	Mixing bowls (3)
Fire extinguisher	Cake pan
Garbage can	
Additional Items You May Want To Bring	
Portable water/Drinking Water	Ax and shovel
Garbage bags (pack it in, pack it out)	Water bucket
Sleeping bag/bedding and pillow	Dish, bath towels, wash cloths
Matches	Dish washing soap, bar soap
Candles or lantern (for emergencies)	Food and spices
Bug repellent	Toilet paper and paper towels
First aid kit	Flashlight with batteries

CABIN MAINTENANCE REQUIRED OF RENTER

1. Sweep and mop all floors and leave steps free of dirt and snow
2. Leave rest room in clean condition
3. Clean kitchen counter tops and refrigerator
4. Wash and put away all dishes
5. Pack out all garbage
6. Turn off propane lights and stovetop burners and turn heater thermostat to night use
7. Fully extinguish fire in the outdoor fire ring
8. Lock all windows and doors
9. Follow all rules and regulations listed within this information

If you choose to rent a cabin on the Heppner Ranger District, we hope you have a wonderful recreational experience! We also value your comments and suggestions regarding our facilities. Please feel free to let us know what you think by giving us a call at (541) 676-9187 or dropping us a note in the mail at P.O. Box 7, Heppner, OR 97836.