Iron Mountain is one of the tallest mountains in the coast range. Geologically, it is composed of great intrusive masses of granitic rocks bordered by metamorphics such as serpentine, slate, and marble. Serpentine is rich in iron and magnesium, and can appear red or green depending upon the degree of reduction it has undergone. The presence of these minerals make plants work harder to grow in the soil. These soils are primarily responsible for the tremendous array of hardy plant life found here. The Iron Mountain Botanical Area is home to an outstanding range of over 300 documented plant species!

Two worlds meet
Plants from the northern range (Oregon and Washington) overlap with plants from the southern range (California), giving the Iron Mountain area a unique combination of plant species. In addition, several species such as the pictured roseflower stonecrop (Sedum laxum) are endemic to the Siskiyou Mountains—they only grow here and nowhere else in the entire world. Iron Mountain Botanical Area was designated in the early 1980s to protect and preserve its incredible botanical diversity.

Enjoy the trail through the Iron Mountain Botanical Area. Preserve the past and protect the future by not disturbing the natural life around you. Pack out all trash, food, and litter. Be careful with campfires, and remember to put out your fire completely.