



NAT'L FOREST SPECIAL PLACES

Olympic National Forest Headquarters' Office-Located off the Black Lake exit on Hwy 101, the Visitor Center provides a variety of Interpretive Displays throughout the year. The Center also has informational brochures, maps and an interpretive sales area. Enjoy a Native plant identification walk adjacent to the office.

High Steel Bridge-This 685-foot steel structure rises 420' above the South Fork of the Skokomish River, which winds its way through a basalt chasm of mostly vertical walls. Originally built by Simpson Timber Company in 1929, this bridge served as a single logging railroad track, opening inaccessible areas to timber harvesting. It was converted into a wooden deck for vehicles in 1950 and was later replaced with concrete and guard rails for modern travel needs. To get there, travel up the Skokomish Valley Rd. 5 mi. to FS Rd. #23, go 2.4 mi. to Rd. #2340 and follow it another 2.4 mi. to the bridge. PLEASE NOTE: Dangerous, steep, slippery areas exist on the slopes around the bridge. Stay away from these areas. No recreational facilities, such as picnic areas or restrooms are available.

Brown Creek Nature Pond -The Brown Creek Recreation Area offers fun for all ages. Brown Creek Campground nestled in the trees along the creek is the take off point for the nature trail which winds through the forested area around the pond. This is a wonderful spot to observe wetland and forest ecosystems and the wildlife species such as woodland songbirds, wood ducks, mergansers, deer and beaver. There are several sites to accommodate equestrian lovers in the adjacent Brown Creek Horse Camp. Nearby South Fork Skokomish River Trail beckons those wishing to hike a longer distance. Follow Skokomish Valley Rd (6 mi. north of Shelton on Hwy 101) for 5 mi. to FS Rd. #23. Turn right and travel 9 mi. to FS Rd. #2353. Turn right and go 3/4 mi. to bridge. Cross bridge and make sharp right turn on FS Rd. #2340. Brown Creek campground is 1/4 mi.

Hamma Hamma Area-Contact Ranger Station for Road Status. This scenic drive, located off Hwy 101 on Forest Service Road #25, offers spectacular views of the Mt. Skokomish and the Brothers Wildernesses. The area is popular for hiking (Lena Lake and other trails), camping, and picnicking. The Living Legacy Trail, which begins at the Hamma Hamma Campground, passes the historic Hamma Hamma Cabin built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The trail has signs depicting the CCC history on the Olympic. The cabin may be rented by contacting the Hood Canal Ranger Station at (360) 877-5254. When hiking this trail, please respect the privacy of the renters and stay on the trail.

Hood Canal Ranger Station-Located just off Hwy 101 in Hoodspout, offering information handouts, maps and interpretive sales area.

Interrorem Historic Site -This is the site of the quaint Interrorem Ranger Cabin, built in 1907 as the first administrative office for the Olympic National Forest. The cabin may be rented by contacting the Hood Canal Ranger Station, visitors can also enjoy a glimpse of it from the parking area and take the 1/4-mi. hike through a lush forest with ferns and mosses. Access is via Hwy 101, turn onto F. S. Road 2510, and travel 4 mi. to the cabin and parking area on the left.

Kloshe Nanitch Fire Lookout-This site offers a wonderful opportunity to experience the quaint charm and spectacular views of a historic fire lookout. Perched on a craggy point above the Sol Duc Valley, Kloshe Nanitch Lookout was an important tool for fire detection from its construction in 1917 to the early 1960's. The site includes a replica of the original lookout building (built from the original plans), a parking area, and a viewpoint trail.

Lake Quinault-Beautiful Lake Quinault, nestled in the rain forest, is the setting for the historic Quinault Lodge, cabins at the Rain Forest Resort Village and several campgrounds. Visitors may stroll along the 1/2-mile Quinault Rain Forest Interpretive Nature Trail or take a longer adventure on the 4-mile Quinault Loop Trail, which winds through the rain forest and along the lake. Lake Quinault is located on the west side of the Peninsula off Hwy 101, north of Aberdeen.

Mt. Mueller Trail-A recent addition to the recreation trail system is the 13-mi. Mt. Mueller loop trail located on the Soleduck Ranger District. Though classified as a more difficult trail for hiking, it offers exhilarating views of Mt. Olympus, Mt. Baker, Lake Crescent, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Hundreds of wildflowers including paintbrush, columbine, tiger lilies, yellow western wallflowers, and daisies may be seen in the open meadows along the ridge top. The trailhead is located on FS Rd. #3071, 31 mi. west of Port Angeles on Hwy 101.

Mt. Walker Viewpoint-Mt. Walker observation area offers panoramic views of Puget Sound, the Olympics and Seattle. There is a short rim trail, two viewpoints, and a picnic area. It is also popular for the wild rhododendrons that grow along the road and trail. The 2,804' summit may be reached by a 4-mile drive or a 2-mile trail. The winding gravel road (FS Rd. #2730) begins 5 miles south of Quilcene on Hwy 101 and is not recommended for trailer travel.

Pacific Ranger Station Visitor Information Center-Located in Forks, on Highway 101, offering information handouts, maps and interpretive sales area.

Pacific Ranger District-Located on the South Shore Rd. at Lake Quinault, offering information handouts, maps and an interpretive sales area.

Quilcene Ranger Station-Located on Hwy 101 in Quilcene, offering information handouts, maps and interpretive sales area.

Seal Rock Area -Located north of Brinnon off Hwy 101, it is one of the few campgrounds located next to saltwater. It has beach access for seasonal oyster and clam harvesting, hiking, bicycling, swimming, boating, beach combing, bird watching, and picnicking. Two short, accessible interpretive trails display the history of Native American use and tell about the marine environment.

Wynoochee Reservoir -This 4-mi. long reservoir is a great spot for boating, hiking, swimming, fishing, picnicking and camping. Popular Coho Campground is tucked in the trees along the shore and provides access to the Working Forest Interpretive Trail and the longer 12-mi. loop trail that circles the lake. This is a remote area with no services, approximately 35 mi. up the Wynoochee Valley Road off State Route 12.