

# Clatsop STATE FOREST



## Welcome to Clatsop STATE FOREST



### Driving forest roads

Most of the recreation sites on the forest are reached over maintained gravel roads, but drivers should be aware that gravel roads require more caution and slower speeds. Carry a forest map and water; check your spare tire and be alert for log trucks and other vehicles. Stay to the right and expect a vehicle around every corner.

If you're looking for a detailed forest map or more information on forest activities, stop by one of our district offices or click through our website at [www.oregon.gov/odf/](http://www.oregon.gov/odf/).

### Forest Contact Information:

Astoria District Office  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
92219 Hwy 202  
Astoria OR 97103  
Phone: (503)-325-5451

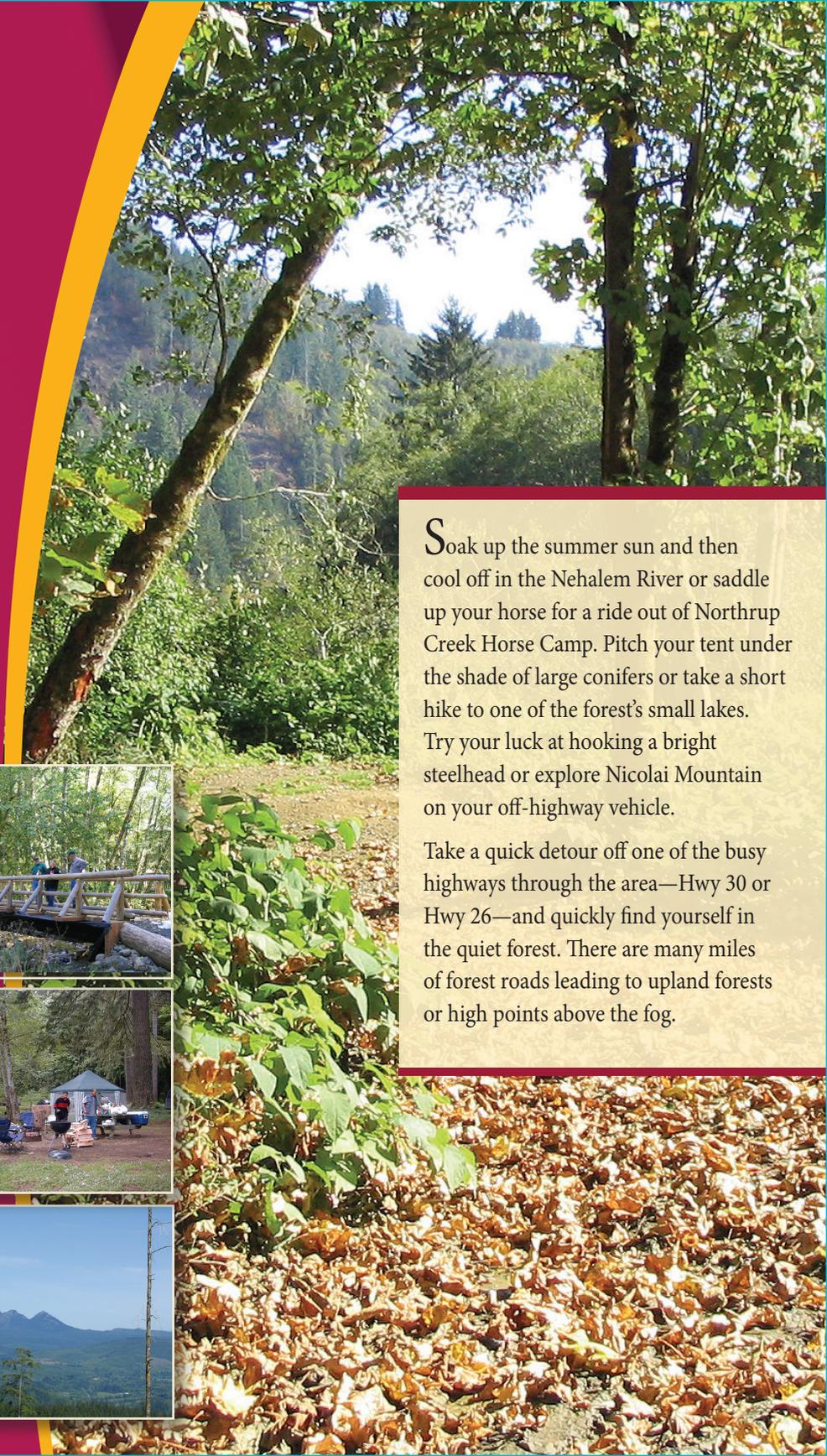


*“I beheld the  
grandest and most  
pleasing prospects  
which my eyes  
ever surveyed”*

William Clark at the end of his continental trek with Meriwether Lewis, wrote these words in his journal in 1806 to describe the panorama of forests in Clatsop County in the northwest corner of Oregon.

Much has changed since the Lewis and Clark Expedition explored this region two centuries ago. A significant portion of the forestland they described is now managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry as the Clatsop State Forest.

If you are looking for a place for family fun and adventure in the outdoors, then follow in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark and plan your own expedition to the Clatsop State Forest.



Soak up the summer sun and then cool off in the Nehalem River or saddle up your horse for a ride out of Northrup Creek Horse Camp. Pitch your tent under the shade of large conifers or take a short hike to one of the forest's small lakes. Try your luck at hooking a bright steelhead or explore Nicolai Mountain on your off-highway vehicle.

Take a quick detour off one of the busy highways through the area—Hwy 30 or Hwy 26—and quickly find yourself in the quiet forest. There are many miles of forest roads leading to upland forests or high points above the fog.

# History



Snag Falling in Clatsop County, 1938



Early logging of the forest with ox team



The first all-woman tree planting crew in Oregon: Clatsop County, 1943

**Before** the 1930s, nearly all of the land that is today part of the Clatsop State Forest was in private ownership. During the period around World War I, a shipping boom was under way and Clatsop County was buzzing with logging camps, railroads and lumber mills.

As tracts of timber were cut, the logged land was let go to the counties instead of paying the taxes.

In 1936 Clatsop County became the first county in Oregon to deed lands to the state.

The Forest Acquisition Act, passed in 1939, further encouraged counties to deed the foreclosed lands to the Oregon Department of Forestry in exchange for a share of future timber harvest revenue, giving rise to the state forest system we have today. By 1957, Clatsop County had transferred 141,000 acres to the state. Since then, the Oregon Department of Forestry has managed the land. In 1973, the Oregon Board of Forestry formally dedicated 154,000 acres of forestland as the Clatsop State Forest.

## Today

The forest provides timber products important to local economies, wildlife habitat for a multitude of animals and a place for people to enjoy.



## Green and Growing

The Clatsop State Forest is a mix of mostly second and third growth hemlock, Douglas-fir and western redcedar with many associated hardwoods, shrubs, ferns and flowers. Elevations range from near sea level at Gnat Creek to 3,000 feet on Nicolai Mountain. Today, the Oregon Department of Forestry manages the Clatsop State Forest for a range of social, environmental and economic benefits. The health of the forest, from wildlife to water quality, is a driving force behind a forest management plan adopted in 2010. The plan calls for a sustainable level of timber harvesting designed to improve the forest's health and contribute revenue to local schools and counties.

Depending on what part of the forest you visit in the summer, you will often find warm and sunny weather. October can be a transition month with dry weather or rain. The rainy season usually starts in November and can soak you to the bone through early spring. Winter snow occurs occasionally in the higher elevations.

A variety of new or recently upgraded facilities are now available for visitors. You will find trails, campgrounds, fishing access, an off-highway vehicle area, and horse riding opportunities. Most of the Clatsop's facilities are rustic and lightly used.

All campground sites are first-come, first served; no reservations are taken. A maximum of eight people and two vehicles are allowed per site. The maximum stay limit is 14 days. All pets must be on a leash. Campground amenities may vary throughout the season. For the latest campground and trail information, contact the Department of Forestry office in Astoria.

## Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground

Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground is located on the Lower Nehalem River and offers a cool retreat for those hot summer days. This campground is a favorite place for visitors to play in the river or relax under the large Douglas-fir trees. Recent improvements have made this a popular destination for tent campers and small RVs. Fishing at nearby Lost Lake is a popular pastime for visitors.



**Season of use:** Year-round  
**Number of sites:** 32 vehicle, 5 walk-in tent  
**Amenities:** garbage service (seasonal), firewood sales (seasonal)  
**Fee:** \$15 vehicle sites, \$10 walk-in tent sites, \$5 extra vehicles.



## Gnat Creek Campground

This primitive tent campground is located on the bank of Gnat Creek. A one mile hiking trail connects the campground to the nearby Gnat Creek Fish Hatchery. You can continue along the trail for another 2.5 miles up Gnat Creek, a tributary to the mighty Columbia River. Several salmon and steelhead runs attract anglers throughout the year. Native trout are also present, but are catch-and-release only.



**Season of use:** Year-round  
**Number of sites:** 4 walk-in tent, Day-use picnicking  
**Fee:** \$10 walk-in tent sites, \$5 extra vehicles.



## Northrup Creek Horse Camp

This facility lies among the lowland meadows of Northrup Creek. The site accommodates equestrian, RV, and tent campers and provides a picnic area along the creek as well as the Big Tree Trail hiking path. The area also serves as a trailhead with over eight miles of developed trails. Located in the eastern part of the county, the weather can be quite nice when the sky is overcast on the coast.

**Season of use:** May 15–December 1  
**Number of sites:** 8 equestrian/RV and 3 tent sites  
**Fee:** \$15 vehicle and equestrian sites, \$5 extra vehicles.



## Beaver Eddy Campground

South of Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground approximately 4.5 miles, you will find another primitive tent campground. This campground offers visitors an opportunity to play in the Nehalem River or test their luck at capturing a crayfish. Visitors can also enjoy the mature flora and fauna that these sites offer.

**Season of use:** Year-round  
**Number of sites:** 8 walk-in tent  
**Amenities:** privies (seasonal)  
**Fee:** \$10 walk-in tent sites, \$5 extra vehicles.



Pacific Ocean

**LEGEND**

On Map, icon color means:

- ODF Maintained Facility
- Maintained By Other Agency
- Boat Launch
- Picnic Site
- Demo Forest
- Staging Area OHV
- Wildlife Viewing
- Trailhead
- Camping
- Designated Campsite
- Horse Camp
- Fish Hatchery
- ODF District Headquarters
- Clatsop State Forest
- Tillamook State Forest

— Paved Road  
- - - Gravel Road

Scale  
0 1 2 3 4 miles

**Pack it in and Pack it out.**

Since many areas within the Clatsop State Forest are managed for primitive recreation experiences, visitors are asked to practice "Leave No Trace" ethics. When trash receptacles are not present, please Pack it in and Pack it out.



**Nicolai Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle Area**

This riding area is located in the northern portion of the Clatsop State Forest. There are 25 miles of trails; most of the trails are rated Easy to Moderate. The terrain is rolling with some steep areas. Trails meander through various forest types; large timber, thinning, young stands, and clearcuts. Scenic vistas provide views of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainer. A number of trails traverse riparian areas and cross creeks over bridges and through fords.



**Bloom Lake Trail**

The Bloom Lake trailhead offers easy access from Hwy 26 to tiny Bloom Lake located 1.25 miles from the highway. This tranquil lake offers an ideal destination after a relaxing afternoon hike through the forest. The trail is a moderate climb that can be enjoyed by the whole family. Along the way experience a variety of plants and animals found in coastal forests.



**Soapstone Lake Trail**

Located off Hwy 53, the two mile trail follows an old road to the former site of the Lindgren Cabin, now located at Cullaby Lake County Park. The trail continues to climb through the forest to Soapstone Lake, where a trail leads visitors around the lake. The lake offers a chance to see a variety of wildlife including beaver and eagles. There are ample places to spread out a blanket and enjoy a picnic while taking in views of the lake.



**Lost Lake**

Lost Lake is a 14-acre natural forest lake nestled in the Coast Range Mountains. It makes a great day trip for fishing or just relaxing in a quiet place. Lost Lake can be accessed from Lost Lake Road near the entrance to Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground and from Quartz Creek Forest Road off Highway 26 at Milepost 27. Lost Lake is periodically stocked with trout by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

**Astoria Demonstration Forest**

The self-guided demonstration forest is a 7-acre parcel located at the ODF office in Astoria. Visitors learn about basic forestry practices and enjoy interpretive exhibits that explain how active management of timber stands benefits State forests. School groups welcome.

**Steam Donkey Interpretive Trail**

Located at the Sunset Hwy Rest Area (Hwy 26, mile 28.5), this 0.8 mile trail consists of two short loops in the form of a "figure eight." The lower trail, the Springboard Loop, offers an easy, gravel-surfaced route that passes the remnants of an old steam donkey. The upper loop, called Dooley Spur, follows a portion of an old railroad grade used to haul logs to the mill.

**Spruce Run Creek Trail**

The Spruce Run Creek Trailhead is located at the popular Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground. This 2-mile trail offers a moderate to difficult climb as it traverses up and over some Coast Range ridges and hikers make their way to the final destination; Spruce Run Lake.