

Trails Club of Oregon Sawtooth Mountains, Washington State Outing

Here are details and instructions for the White Cloud Mountains Outing in August.

Final payment due July 1, 2008 \$250 for TCO or Mazama members; \$300 for others. Make your check payable to "Trails Club of Oregon" and mail it to the club at
P.O. Box 1243
Portland, OR 97207

Enclosures:

- 1. Release Form.** Complete this form, sign it, and return it to Bill Kingsbury with your final payment (if not already paid).
- 2. Emergency Contact Form.** Complete this form and carry it in you day pack throughout the Outing. It tells your fellow hikers what to do if you are injured and/or need medical attention.
- 3. What to Bring.** Please review and follow this advice carefully, especially the listings of essential items.
- 4. Rosters for Weeks 1 and 2.**

Important information:

Personal Gear: Personal gear to be carried by the pack animals must be limited to 35 pounds per person. In the interest of limiting bulk, try to pack all your personal gear in one bag, such as a military style duffel bag. If more than one bag is needed, securely tie together all your items to make one compact bundle.

Chairs add a lot to the bulk of the baggage, but many people like to have one in camp. If you want a chair you are encouraged to arrange to share a chair with someone attending the other week. If you are bringing a chair, you should make it a collapsable fold-up canvas camp chair in its own carry sack, of the type sold in supermarkets and sporting goods stores for about \$10. If it does not fit in your duffel it can be packed in separately. If you bring a flat-folding lawn or beach chair, plan on carrying it in lashed to your day pack.

Leaders: Bill Kingsbury will be the camp leader for the first week, August 3-10, and Diana Forester will be the camp leader for the second week, August 10-17. The camp leader coordinates camp operations and tries to ensure that your week goes smoothly and safely.

In addition there will be a kitchen monitor each week. The kitchen monitor for the first week will be Virginia Fuller, and the one for the second week will be Callista Dunn. The kitchen monitors will oversee kitchen organization, monitor food supplies, and advise cooks as needed. No one is to go into the coolers except on explicit instruction from the kitchen monitor who may appoint a “cooler runner” each day to get food supplies from the coolers.

For a good camping experience, please comply with the leaders’ and kitchen monitors’ guidance and decisions.

Where & When to Meet: Plan on checking in with the camp leader and meeting with the packer, Steve Darwood of the Cascade Wilderness Outfitters, at 8 am the first Sunday of your Outing week at the trailhead.

If a problem arises that will prevent you being at the trailhead at the appointed time, call the leader for your week by cell phone or try to pass on word through someone else who is going. Be mindful that your leader probably will have no cell phone reception after leaving the town of Twisp the evening before the rendezvous. Alternatively, you can try passing a message through Steve Darwood. His number is 509-997-0155. The best time to call him is either between 9:00 -10:00 at night or early morning (6:00 to 7:00)

Driving Instructions: Our meeting place is the Crater Creek Trailhead. From the town of Twisp along Sate Highway 20 you drive west on Twisp River Road (county road 1090) for 11 miles to a junction with the Buttermilk Creek Road. Turn left at the fork after just .2 miles and follow the one-lane paved Forest Road 43 as it climbs to a campground at Blackpine Lake, At the east end of the lake turn right and drop down the valley of Mission Creek. About 12 miles from the Twisp River Road turn sharply right on Forest Road 4340 and follow this for 7.1 miles to Road 300. Make a sharp right and go 4.5 to the Crater Creek Trailhead. This is where we will start our hike.

From Portland to Twisp is about a 6.5 hours drive. Mapquest suggests that you take I-84 east to Exit 104 at Biggs. You will then take the bridge across the Columbia and take US-97 North towards Wenatchee. You continue on US 97 until about 32 miles before Twisp when you turn left onto WA – 153. Just before Twisp, WA-153 becomes WA-20. Distance between Portland and Twisp is 375 miles.

Trailhead Accommodations: Plan to stay as near the trailhead as possible the Saturday night before meeting your group. There is a Forest Service campground at Blackpine Lake. There are also motels in Twisp. You might try the following:

Idle A While Motel – 509 997-3222

Blue Spruce Motel – 509 997-8852

Sportsman Motel – 509 997-2911

Meals: Breakfast on the Sunday your group meets is on your own. Also pack and carry in your daypack your lunch for that first day. All other meals during the week, through the trail lunch to be carried in your day pack the second Sunday, are provided.

TCO policies for Alpine Outings:

- No one hikes alone; the minimum hiking party is two.
- No alcohol is permitted on the Outing.
- No smoking while traveling on the trail.
- No pets on the Outing.
- Everyone signs up on the daily chore sheet to share in the work of cooking, cleaning, and all other chores.
- If a medical emergency prevents your participation, your payment (except for the \$50.00 nonrefundable deposit) may be refunded in whole or in part, but ONLY AFTER the Outing is completed; all Outing bills are paid; and the final accounting tells us what we have left to use for refunds.
- If the cost of the Outing is considerably less than budgeted, all participants will get a refund.

Other details:

- Proper food storage is essential to protect both you and the wildlife. There may be bears in the area.
- Many lakes in the Sawtooth Mountains are known for the fine fishing, but this varies from lake to lake. If you plan to fish, a valid Washington fishing license is required; it may be purchased at local sporting or drug stores.
- Trailhead parking pass is required.
- A pair of notebooks to be kept in the kitchen tent will provide guidance about camp routines, meal preparation, trail guides, maps, and other information.

Here's to a great week in the Sawtooth Mts. of Washington! Email or call Diana Forester if you have any questions.