

# Salmon Watch<sup>®</sup>

## **SALMON RIVER #1**

Old Salmon River Trailhead in Mt Hood National Forest

**Allow approximately 1.5 hours driving time from downtown Portland.**

### **DIRECTIONS:**

From Portland take Highway 26 East through Sandy. Proceed on Hwy. 26 through Welches. About one mile past the stop light in Welches, turn right on to Salmon River Road, just past the “Zig Zag” sign. There are also signs pointing to “Green Canyon Campground” and “Welches Grade School.” Proceed approximately 2.5 miles on Salmon River Road. Look for a parking area on the right side of the road with the trailhead sign reading “Old Salmon River Trail #742A.”

**NOTE #1:** There is typically a portable toilet at this site, but it is recommended that you make a stop in Sandy or Welches for a restroom break.

**NOTE #2:** The Forest Service has introduced a parking fee program for trailheads. NW Forest Passes (either an annual or daily pass \$5) are required for car parking. BUSES DO NOT NEED A PASS. Please mention this to your volunteers if they plan to drive themselves. We will provide passes for volunteers in the equipment kit, please be sure they are all returned to the kit.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Salmon River headwaters are on the upper slopes of Mt. Hood, carrying snowmelt down from Palmer Glacier. It flows 31 miles, 24 through of which are through national forest.

**SALMON VIEWING:** Chinook - Hike in  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile through a dense and complex old growth forest. As you hike you'll be above the river and will have many good vantage points to look down in search of salmon. As the forest begins to open up and the trail gets closer to the river you've reached the area for great salmon viewing and the general area to conduct small group activities.

### **MACROINVERTEBRATES:**

This is not the easiest site to find aquatic macroinvertebrates, because the river is quite swift. It is highly recommended that you use side channels for your sampling. Be sure to bring hip waders and life vests for this site. Turning over and scanning rocks may be the best sampling method in this swift river.

### **NATURE HIKE/RIPARIAN STUDY:**

This is a spectacular and majestic old growth forest area with outstanding biodiversity. You should have no trouble finding an amazing diversity of plant and wildlife to study.

### **WATER QUALITY:**

Water quality testing is best conducted near or just upstream from the salmon viewing area. Continue down the trail until you reach a good location to access the water.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST:** WILDWOOD UNDERWATER VIEWING STRUCTURE. If possible, set aside a at least 45 minutes to stop at the Wildwood Recreation Site. Wildwood is on Hwy. 26, between Welches and the Mt. Hood Information Center. The Cascade StreamWatch Trail leads you to a brand new underwater viewing structure which provides a unique and accessible “fish eye view” of stream habitat and fish. Fingerling and juvenile salmon, trout and steelhead can be seen swimming and feeding.

**MEDICAL FACILITIES IN THE AREA:**

Hoodland Fire Department, Welches Road

Dial 911

Dr. Murlan Grise

24461 E. Welches Rd.

503-622-3126

Legacy Mt. Hood Medical Center

24800 SE Stark St.

Gresham, OR 97030

503-335-3500