



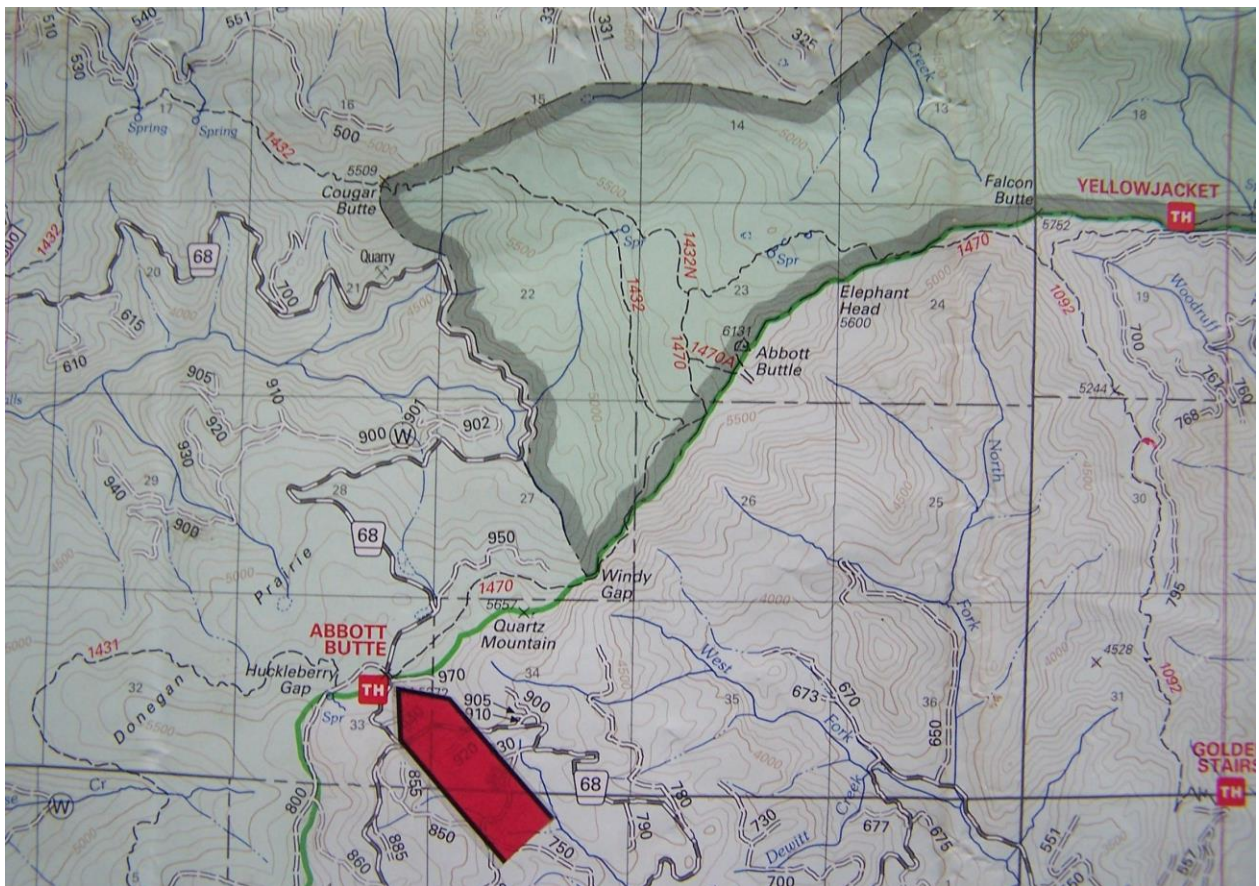
**OREGON  
WILD**

Formerly Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC)

**Abbott Butte (and Creek) Proposed Wilderness Additions to the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness**—most sections in the SE portion of T30S R2E and the SW sections of T30 S R2E

**Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest--High Cascades Ranger District  
Umpqua National Forest --Tiller Ranger District**

A 23.8 mile long trail #1470 is the primary route through the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness. Overall, the trail follows a ridge crest that is the border between the Rogue Umpqua Divide Wilderness to the north, and adjoining roadless lands including the Abbott Creek RNA immediately to the southeast. This southwestern most end of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Trail (near “Huckleberry Gap”) begins at a gradual and very easy uphill grade, at the summit of FS Rd. 68 (Section 33 T30S R2E) that on older maps is shown as FS. Rd.30 (Umpqua side) and FS Rd. 68 (then only on the Rogue side).



Red arrows point to start of Abbott Butte Trailhead at the SW most end of the Rogue Umpqua Divide Trail #1470. This trail then follows along the southern boundary of the R-U Divide Wilderness (in green).

The Divide Trail #1470 offers exceptional views in most all directions as it weaves across the crest of the divide. To the west lies the irregular and deeply dissected terrain of the Umpqua Drainage; while to the east the hiker sees the broad, open Rogue Basin with the peaks of the Cascade crest also rising high above. In addition to the fine vistas, the R-U Divide features a spectacular display of wildflowers in its many meadows from mid-June until mid-August.

The main Abbott Butte (“Huckleberry Gap”) Trailhead on the southern-most end of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Trail (#1470) trail begins (Section 33 T30 R2E) initially passing around the cool, north side of Quartz Mt. (in the unprotected roadless area) on the way to “Windy Gap”. Here, and at another place ahead, the southern end of the Divide Trail touches and later crosses a section an old CCC road (extension of FS spur Rd. 68-950) to the old, abandoned Abbott Butte lookout.

*This abandoned road first originates, as a now unmaintained trail, beginning just a ¼ mile in, from the end of FS spur Rd. 68-950—in the southern most adjoining corners of Sections 27 & 28 (T30 R2E). To find it, Rd. 68-950 begins a half mile north of the main Abbott Butte/R-U Divide trailhead, just touching trail #1470, 1.4 miles east of the main Abbott Butte Trailhead, and then parallels and crosses the main Divide Trail again in 2.7 miles, where it continues mostly then as a Wilderness trail on to the summit of Abbott Butte.*

#### **Trail Directions:**

From Huckleberry Gap and Rd. 68, at the very beginning and southern end of the (here featured) Abbott Butte trailhead, it’s a 4.3 mile hike along the Divide Trail (#1470) to Elephant Pond meadows and Elephant Head--a prominent, (somewhat) elephant-shaped cliff on the NE end of Abbott Butte. (One can imagine not only a head, but an elephant truck, ear and eye.) At least half of southern end of the R-U Divide trail to Elephant Head, is actually outside of the 1984 designated Rogue–Umpqua Divide Wilderness. This entire roadless expanse to the south is a priority for addition to the existing Wilderness Area.



Alaska Yellow Cedar, *Callitropsis nootkatensis* .7 mile from the start of trail #1470.



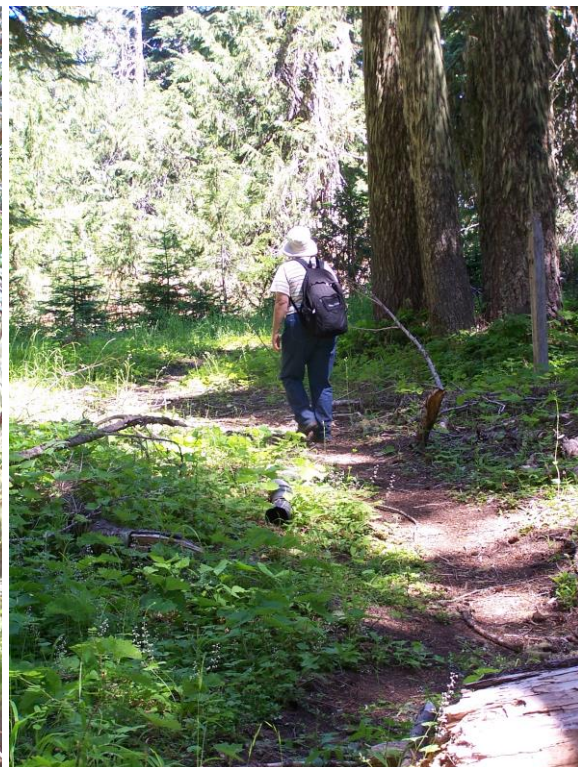
At the Abbott Butte/"Huckleberry Gap" Trailhead you begin hiking northeast in a mature mountain hemlock and old growth Shasta red fir forest at the southwestern most end of trail #1470. In about ¾ mile you come to the first rocky outcrop on your left, with rock-loving wildflowers and expansive views over the South Umpqua watershed to the northwest. Along this northwestern to north facing slope (T30S R02E S27 SE1/4) are scattered trees of Alaska Yellow Cedar, *Callitropsis* (formerly *Chamaecyparis*) *nootkatensis* at the southern-most extension of this species range within the southern Oregon Cascades. This remarkable, and unexpected grove of Alaska Yellow Cedars were first reported to OSU back in 1965, by now long-time, old growth forest researcher Dr. Jerry F. Franklin.

In another .4 mile (and 1.4 mile from the trailhead) you come to the forested "Windy Gap" after passing a few enormous old growth Douglas Fir trees, and after walking along the very botanically diverse north side of Quartz Mountain with its vertical rock outcrops (on a slightly vegetation over-grown), but still remarkably level and easy hiking mountain trail.

At "Windy Gap" the trail comes to a "Y" where this roadless area trail, first just barely touches the boundary edge of the 1984-designated Rogue Umpqua Divide Wilderness. Continue on, actually just outside the designated Wilderness, on the trail to the right. The trail to the left connects trail #1470 with a just slightly lower elevation, paralleling trail--that is the original old, narrow road to the Abbott Butte Lookout. This fire lookout was built in 1928, but abandoned in the late 1940s. This old abandoned road (now a trail winding in and out of the Wilderness) now provides the best access route for horse riders originating from FS Rd 68-950 in the extreme SW corner of Sec. 27 (T30S R2E).



R-U Divide Wilderness sign at Windy Gap.



Trail to left leads to horse trail/ Rd. 950 access



*Directions to (the above described) alternative equestrian access—back at FS Rd. 68 and the principal Abbott Butte Trhd #1470—continue right (initially NE) and downhill on the Umpqua side of the Divide on Rd. 68. It's .5 mile to Rd. 950 junction on the right (unsigned but evident). In ¼ mile Rd. 950 ends in a small parking and turn around area—continuing as a trail and also passing by the previously described area, containing some nice Alaska Yellow Cedar.*



Looking down on old Abbott Butte Rd. bed (extension of Rd. 950)—center of photo--parallels a short portion of Trail #1470 in the R-U Divide Wilderness, immediately NE of Windy Gap.

As you continue hiking on, another .4 mile after forested “Windy Gap”, you come to a one to two acre rocky flat, knob and cliff face, by the lesser known name of “Sandy Gap”. This natural, large rocky outcrop area provides views of Mt. Scott on the back side (and center) of the Crater Lake rim. Additionally, to the far south is a prominent view of Mt. McLoughlin and even Mt. Shasta still further on in the distance. For the best views at this open rocky flat, explore uphill to another adjacent, open rocky knob expanse to your right, on back south, and just beyond the main trail and a small band of trees above the open flat.

About 2/3s of the way (or 2.8 miles in) to Elephant Head on the main trail #1470, is a .7 mile detour (trail #1470A) to the right to the abandon lookout at the top of 6131 ft. Abbott Butte. Also, as along the north side of Quartz Mt. on the way in, the very showy Cascade or Washington Lily, *Lilium washingtonianum*, bloom near Abbott Butte’s summit.



*This side detour trail to Abbott Butte Lookout is also located about ¼ mile after the Cougar Butte Trail #1432 joins the R-U Divide Trail #1470, from the left (northwest). This other ridge top Cougar Butte Trail #1432 (to and through the NW corner of this southern portion of the Rogue Umpqua Divide Wilderness Area) begins at the junction of FS Rd. 68 (formerly 30) & Rd. 500 in Section 19 T30 R2E. This trailhead and junction along Rd. 68 is 8.25 miles prior to reaching Huckleberry Gap and the top of the divide. Only about .2 mile up this same general roadless area trail a very outstanding geologic feature: the 100 ft. high “Cow Horn Arch” through and under which the Cougar Butte Trail #1432 initially passes (below).*



The massive rock Cow Horn Arch is another feature of this same roadless area as accessed further north from Cougar Butte Trail #1432--8½ road miles from the featured Abbott Butte Trailhead.

From Windy Gap it is another 1.6 miles to the spur trail up to the top of 6131 ft. Abbott Butte, and another 1.3 miles further on to Elephant Head Pond at a 5350 ft. elevation, and below a 300 foot cliff and the Elephant Head Rock.

Note Elephant Head pond can also be reached from further east (at the top of FS Rd. 700) at a distance of 2.3 miles (west) from the Yellow Jacket Trailhead of the R-U Divide Trail #1490 (east to west), and .9 miles after its intersection with the lower (north-south) Golden Stairs Trail #1092.





"Sandy Gap" .4 mile beyond "Windy Gap" and 1.8 miles from FS Rd. 68 and the Abbott Butte Trailhead.



Another view of Sandy Gap looking toward the northeast.





Crater Lake Rim on the far horizon as viewed from a rocky knob just above Sandy Gap.

### **Driving Directions:**

The main R-U Divide Wilderness trailhead on Rd. 68 (formerly 30) can be reached either via Road 68 from the Crater Lake Hwy. 62, or from Douglas County and I-5 and then via Tiller.

**Coming from Medford**, the turn off on Hwy. 62 onto FS Rd. 68 for the “Woodruff Bridge and the “Abbott Creek Campground. This junction with Rd. 68 is .3 mile after the 51 mile post on Hwy. 62, and 8 miles beyond the town of Prospect (last gas, and cell phones work best in front of the Post Office). Coming from Crater Lake, FS Rd. is on the right 4.6 miles below Union Creek.

For the Abbott Butte trailhead and the south end of the R-U Divide Trail #1470, follow Rd. 68 for 13 miles to the top of the divide. Here the trailhead is on the right just before Rd. 68 starts down hill to the left, and what looks like the main road (but isn't), Road 800 forks to the left.

**From Roseburg** take I-5 south for 25 miles to exit 98 (Canyonville-Days Creek). Following signs for Crater Lake, drive into Canyonville taking West 1<sup>st</sup> Street and turn onto SE 3rd St./OR-227. Continue to follow OR-227 for 23.3 miles which becomes the Tiller-Trail Highway until you reach Tiller.

At the far end of town bear left on to FS Rd. 46 and continue 5.3 miles, and turn right on Jackson Creek Road (FS Rd.29) for 12.5 miles. Here, just .9 mile after the Cover Campground, turn right onto FS Rd. 68 (gravel) for another 15.9 miles. (On older maps, FS Rd. 68 was formerly called Rd. 30 on the Umpqua Forest side.) As you top out on FS Rd. 68, the Abbott Butte trailhead “Huckleberry Gap” is to the left, just beyond unmarked FS Rd. 800

to the right. If you miss this trailhead, you will now be heading downhill on the Rogue River side of the divide on Rd. 68. (Most of the various road and trailhead signs in this area had been vandalized or pulled down when last viewed as recently as the summer of 2014.)



Washington or Cascade Lily, *Lilium washingtonianum*, along the north side of Quartz Mt. on the way to Windy Gap on the Abbott Butte (R-U Divide) Trail #1470

### **Access to a “secret” little visited meadow on the south side of Quartz Mt.**

While the nearly vertical north face of Quartz Mt. looms immediately above you on the Abbott Butte (R-U Divide) Trail #1470 just before reaching Windy Gap, its south facing side requires a partially off-trail, semi-cross-country route, one mile south of the Abbott Butte Trailhead on the Rogue side, of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide.

From the Abbott Butte Trailhead, and top of the Divide on FS Rd. 68, continue south exactly 1.1 mile and park opposite a large rock outcrop (pictured) on the east (left) side of the road.



Trail starts here, uphill, below this rock.

Follow an unsigned trail up the hill at the lower south end of this roadside rock and parked car (pictured above). Here the remnants of an old, long ago, abandoned spur road 910 (possibly



signed on back in the woods) tops out in about 50 yards, turns slightly to the left, and then leads overall NE just above and paralleling a small drainage. Follow this unofficial, forested trail along a gentle, basically flat contour, in a direction generally perpendicular from Rd. 68 where you parked. This route soon comes to the lovely meadow pictured below in about a ¼ mile--with the south face of Quartz Mt. (above and to right of the picture below) towering above.



“Secret” meadow, just ¼ mile from FS Rd. 68, one mile down the road (Rogue River side) from the (featured) Abbott Butte Trailhead. The meadow is located just below the very middle of Section 34 T30S R2E. (Sorry, but we didn’t get a GPS reading.)