



Anderson Mt. Proposed Wilderness Additions to the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness-- T30S R3E (mostly) Sections 4 & 9, and T29S R3E Section 33

When the 35,701 acre Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness was designated by Congress in 1984, conservationists were immediately struck and dismayed by how much of the roadless lands contained on the Rogue River side of the divide had been omitted by Sen. Mark Hatfield from the final bill.

One of the particular “Rogue-side Divide” areas so slighted was 5470 ft. Anderson Mountain as well as an unnamed 5680 foot peak 2 miles immediately to the northeast. Both peaks hug the Divide’s crest traversed by the main Rogue-Umpqua Divide trail No. 1470.



From just below 5470 ft. Anderson Mt: Mt Thielsen is in the far background (just left of center) and a 5680 ft. unnamed peak is in the mid-ground, on horizon to the far left.

From just below Anderson Mountain’s summit one gets panoramic views of much of the Rogue Umpqua Divide as well as the southern Cascade Range. Also here, a large prairie meadow extends for over a half mile square--folding over both sides of the conifer rimmed Divide.



Anderson Mt. Prairie—From just below Anderson Mt. looking up the divide toward the northeast.

This Divide top prairie is most easily accessed by a poorly maintained, one-mile connector trail from the upper Rogue River side, known as Anderson Camp Trail #1075. The wildflowers of “Anderson Camp” (and mountain) is featured in Elizabeth L. Horn’s 2006 “Oregon’s Best Wildflower Hikes—Southwest Region.

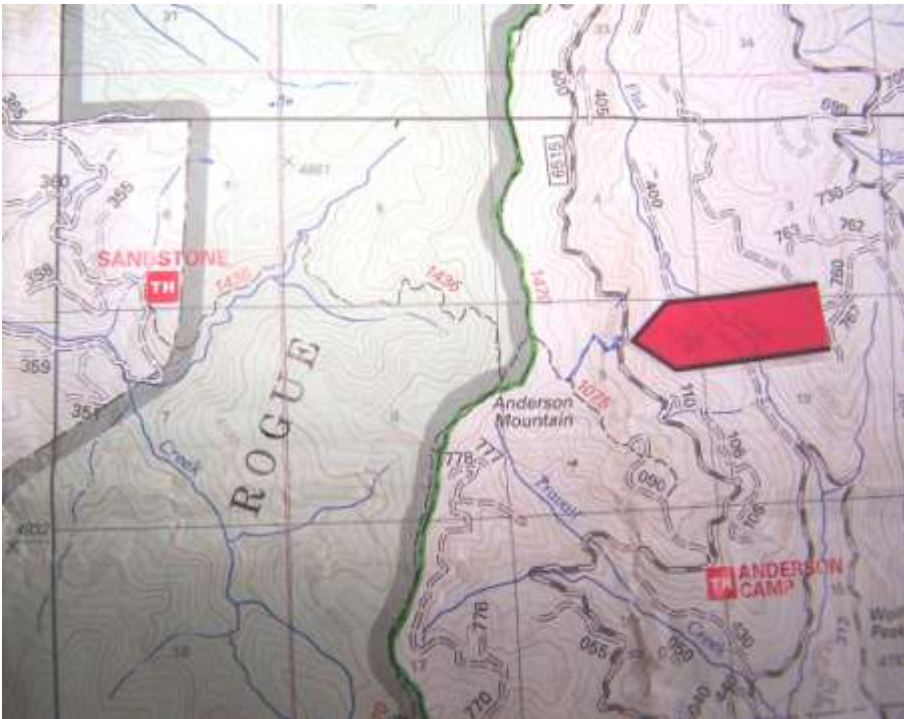
This trail rises gently, but is all uphill, beginning at and leaving FS Road 6515 at a 4950 foot elevation. The last half mile to Anderson Mountain’s 5470 summit is through a prairie to the south along a portion of the (equally hard to specifically locate) Rogue Umpqua Divide trail #1470. Thus, overall, a 540 ft. elevation gain over 1 ½ miles.

Directions

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 last cell phone service). Continue 2.7 miles and turn right onto Rd. 6510 and continue another 5.9 miles and then turn left on FS Rd. 6515. Stay on FS Rd. 6515 for another 6.4 miles to the trailhead on your left, after a pull out for parking on the right. Trail #1075 begins in the upper half of Section 9, **and not up FS Rd. 090 as indicated on the 2008 Tiller Ranger District Map.** In fact, the signed Anderson Camp Trail #1075 trailhead at 10T 0543376 UTM 4758920 is located 1.5 miles beyond the junction of Rd. 090 and FS Rd. 6515 and .4 mile after a faint road the right which is shown on the map as Rd. 110.



Anderson Camp Trail #1075 trailhead on the (left) uphill side of FS Rd. 6515



The red arrow shows the correct #1075 Anderson Camp trailhead location--with the actual "zig-zag" trail drawn in--still 1.5 miles beyond the Rd. 090 location of the "Anderson Camp TH" shown on the Forest Service's latest 2008 Tiller RD map.

The (always uphill) Anderson Camp trail makes two initial, short switch backs, beginning uphill to the left, and then to the right. After .2 mile it makes a long switch back again to the left. When you enter the first very small open meadow here, look in July for the rare, blue-flowered *Mazama Collomia* (*Collomia mazama*) 10T 0543066 UTM 475882, found only in limited areas of the southern Oregon Cascades.



Mazama Collomia (*Collomia mazama*)

The forth, final, and longest .5 mile switchback to the right soon leaves the previous surrounding forest canopy and enters a dry meadow ending at a ridge top prairie and at the Wilderness boundary. Here it meets a poorly defined section of the (main) Rogue Umpqua Divide trail #1470--just above “Anderson Camp”--marked by a small wooden sign nailed to a tree, and only seen when facing back downhill. Anderson Camp was a late 19th-early 20th century shepherd’s camp, commemorating then shepherd Frank Anderson.



Anderson Camp is signed on a fir tree at the top of Anderson Camp Trail #1075 and just before its somewhat indistinct junction with the Rogue Umpqua Divide Trail #1470.

While the Anderson Camp (connector) Trail #1075 is clearly signed on the uphill side of FS Road 6515, this trail has been little maintained, and is best approached by people seeking a semi-cross country experience. Trees and branches have fallen across the trail, and some large trees have fallen parallel to, or directly on top of the trail itself.

When you reach the first, really large meadow, 3/4s of the way to the top, continue on NE in the direction and trajectory you were hiking along a large fallen tree just before coming out of the woods. Through this once meadow-sheep pasture, the trail continues ever more obscurely across this mostly dry meadow. However, you do step across one very small spring (the only water in the area), still well before arriving at the top of the Rogue Umpqua Divide. In addition to an old Wilderness boundary sign facing you as you top out,-- to the right of it, and facing in the other uphill direction, is an old wooden sign on an old fir with a small arrow pointing directions to Abbott Butte to the southwest and Hershberger Lookout to the north east (see below).



Sign at the junction of the Rogue Umpqua Divide Trail #1470 with Anderson Camp Trail #1075.

Anderson Mountain itself lies on down the divide, at the south end of a long (and wide) grassy prairie, and where just a very few remnants remain of the foundation of an old fire lookout once stood on the now tree-lined summit.



A few remnants of the foundation is all that remains of a fire lookout that once topped the now generally tree-obstructed view at the top of Anderson Mountain.

Looking up the divide to the northeast you can view the 5680 ft. unnamed peak two miles ahead (that just kisses the Wilderness boundary—and that trail #1470 bisects) and a wall of mature and old green trees below the top of the divide (in the roadless area). On ahead Mt. Thielsen looms in all its glory along the very top crest of the Oregon Cascades.



Zoomed in from the very 1st photo above—Viewed from just below 5470 ft. Anderson Mt., Mt.Thielsen is in the far background, just left of center, and the 5680 ft. unnamed peak is on horizon on the left.



Also mostly in the Anderson Mt. Roadless Area, 5680 ft. unnamed peak, looking NE as viewed from Anderson Camp along trail # 1075.

Viewed from Anderson Mt. and along the Rogue Umpqua Divide, onto the far east horizon, one views the full length of the rim of Crater Lake. Hillman Peak and The Watchman are the two 8000+ peaks in the center of the picture below.



Crater Lake Rim as viewed from just below 5470 ft. Anderson Mt. along the Rogue Umpqua Divide (just east of and outside of the Wilderness boundary).

Not pictured here, but in the almost opposite direction of Crater Lake is Falcon Creek with Jackson Creek beyond and what seems to be the entire South Umpqua watershed off to the far northwest.

Umpqua National Forest Access

The Anderson Mountain area can also be accessed from the Sandstone Trail #1436 from the South Umpqua side of the Divide (within the Rogue Umpqua Divide Wilderness). According to the Tiller RD, Forest Service Recreational Opportunity Guide: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/umpqua/null/recarea/?recid=63854&actid=104>

“The 3.4 mile Sandstone Trail leads the traveler across the southern portion of Rogue-Umpqua Divide Wilderness, up the west side of the Rogue-Umpqua Divide ridge, climbing from 3,350 feet to 5,300 feet (just below) Anderson Mountain.

A variety of trail experiences are offered, including a stand of old growth Douglas-fir, an old forest burn, scenic views of Jackson Creek Drainage, and unusual rock formations such as volcanic cinder cones. At the top of the divide, the Sandstone Trail meets the Rogue-Umpqua Divide Trail #1470, on Anderson Mountain.”

Beginning Directions: From Canyonville Take West 1st Street and turn onto SE 3rd St./OR-227 (initially following signs for Crater Lake). Continue to follow OR-227 approximately 23 miles until you reach Tiller.

From Tiller, OR take County Road #46 to Jackson Creek Road Forest Service (FS) Road #29. Follow FS Road #29 to Forest Road #2947. Follow Forest Road #2947 to Forest Road #2947-300 at the Falcon Creek Bridge. Follow Road Forest Road #2947-300 to the Sandstone Trailhead, approximately 25 miles from Tiller.

See map of the specific trailhead location at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/umpqua/null/recarea/?recid=80582&actid=104> which shows the specific trailhead location along the Wilderness boundary in the southern, most lower loop of Rd. 300, Section 7 (T30S R3E). This is rather than mis-shown, just to the north, in the south end of Section 6 as it appears on the 2008 Tiller Ranger District map.



Calochortus elegans var. *nanus*, Elegant Cat's Ear
photographed on top of 5470 ft. Anderson Mt.