

Photo by Nanci Champlin



Photo by Ken Moorish

## Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness

### Salmon River Meadows

Clackamas County  
6,075 acres  
Mount Hood National Forest

#### Description:

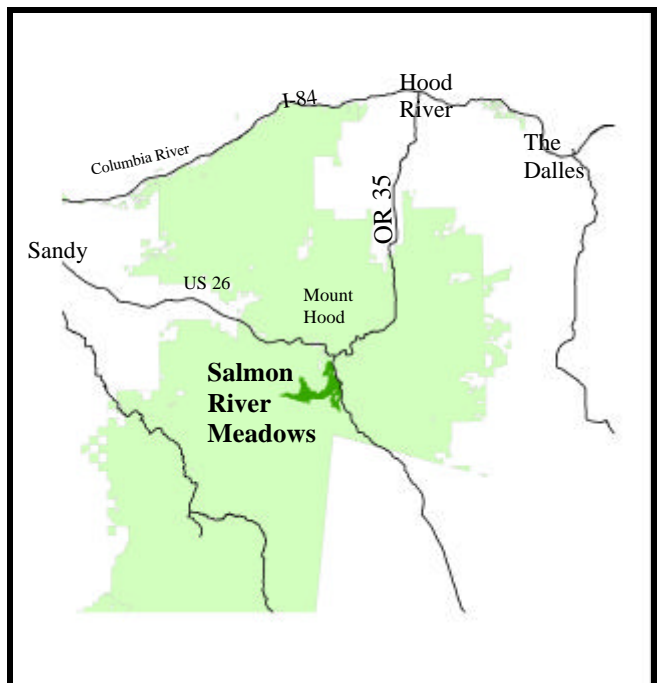
Salmon River Meadows is characterized by serene wetland meadows surrounded by rocky slopes covered with old-growth forests. The Pacific Crest Trail

traverses the ridge above the meadow, offering spectacular views of both the meadows and Mount Hood. The diverse wetland habitat is in the upper watershed of the Salmon River, providing crystal clear waters for runs of salmon and steelhead.

#### Ecological, geological, and scenic value:

The Salmon River is one of only a few rivers designated as Wild and Scenic throughout its entire length, from its headwaters on Mt. Hood to its confluence with the Sandy River. In addition to the Salmon River's exceptional wild salmon and steelhead fisheries, there are also several rare native fish species found in this area. Salmon River meadows has one of only two populations of redband trout on the west side of the Cascades. This rare variety of redband is considered a unique subspecies.

Several pockets of ancient hemlock, Douglas-fir, and western red cedar forests contribute to the variety of critical wildlife habitat. These old-growth forests, along with the network of meadows and the Salmon River, provide great ecological diversity. Not surprisingly, 228 native wildlife species are found here, including 31 listed as threatened, endangered, or sensitive. Sandhill cranes nest in the Salmon River Meadows, which are at the northern edge of their range.





*Photo by Tammy Schiveley*

**Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation:**

**F**ishing, primitive camping, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing are popular in this beautiful and serene landscape. Just minutes from Government Camp, the Salmon River Meadows Roadless Area is an all-season recreational escape for Portlanders. This wild area is contiguous with the existing

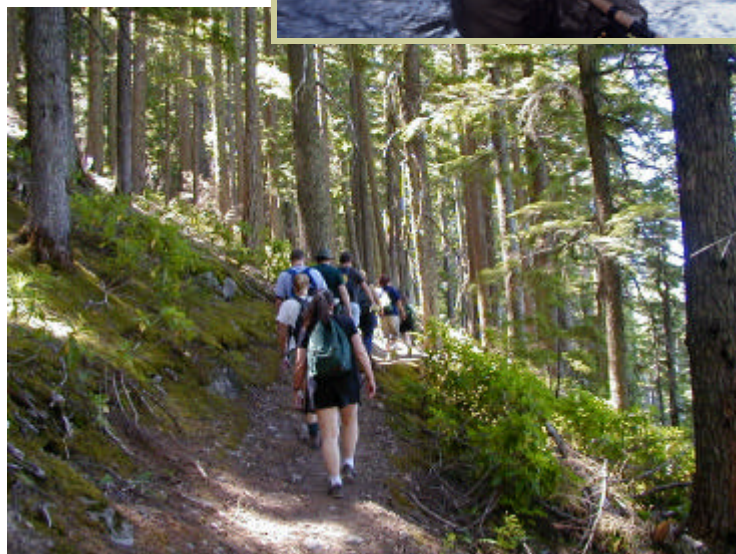
Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness, and provides ample opportunities for solitude, as well as remarkable scenic vistas of Mount Hood and the surrounding ridges. The Pacific Crest Trail traverses this proposed wilderness area, providing backcountry recreation opportunities. Wetland meadows are also an excellent area for birdwatchers.

*Photo by Ken Moorish*



**Threats:**

**L**ogging and sprawl from nearby Government Camp are persistent threats to Salmon River Meadows area's important forests, riparian meadows, and fish and bird habitat. The USFS logged right up to the Pacific Crest Trail 25 years ago, and tried again just several years ago. Designating this area as Wilderness will provide permanent protection for the headwaters for the Salmon River's clean waters and key wildlife habitat by preventing logging as well as associated road-building and development.



*Pacific Crest Trail in Salmon River Meadows proposed wilderness area. Photo by ONRC.*