



Cedar Butte Lookout, 1922

Early records indicate that a fire lookout and cabin existed on Cedar Butte in 1908. However, wildfire destroyed the cabin ten years later. The “crow’s nest” lookout pictured above consisted of a tall tree with a ladder climbing to the observation platform. In 1937, the Civilian Conservation Corps added a ground cabin with a cupola. In 1945, fire swept through the Cedar Butte area again burning 180,000 acres. Everett Rust was stationed on Cedar Butte Lookout and is credited with reporting the fire. The final removal of the lookout took place in the early 1950s.

Be Prepared

- Let someone know your plans
- Lock your vehicle
- Read trailhead signs
- Pack plenty of water

Protect the Forest

- Stay on designated trails
- Check current fire restrictions

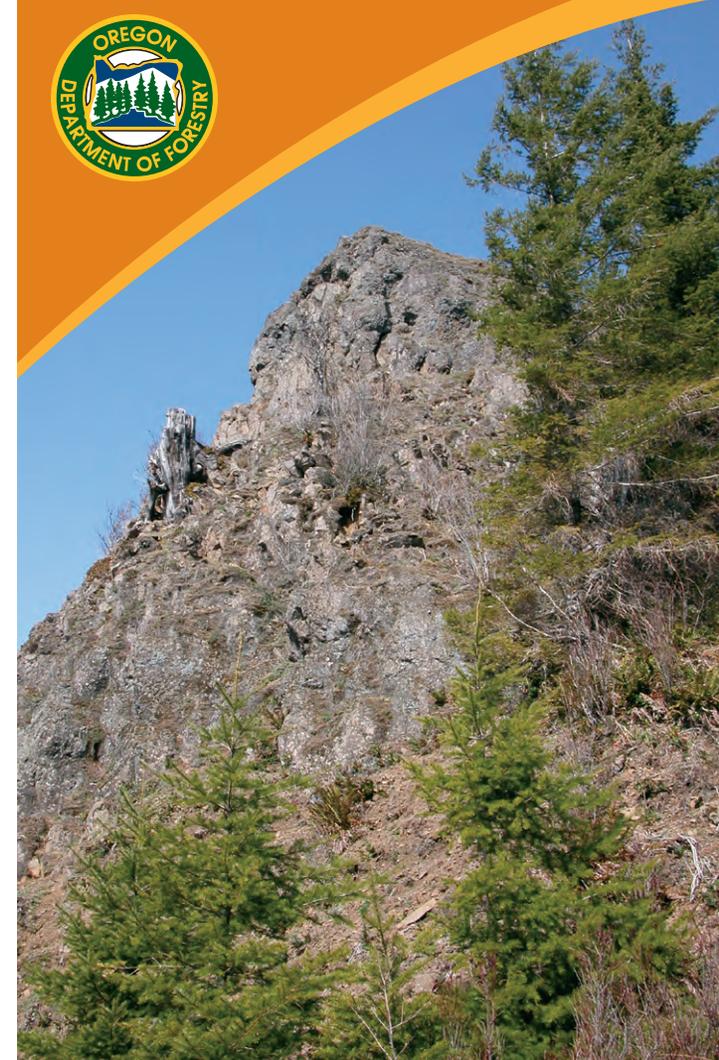


For More Information

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Tillamook State Forest TRAIL GUIDE

Cedar Butte Trail



CAUTION

Use extra caution when driving on single-lane gravel roads in the forest. Drive slowly and watch for truck traffic. Be prepared for changing trail and weather conditions, steep terrain and loose rock.

LENGTH: 0.75 mile
DIFFICULTY: Difficult



TRAIL INFORMATION

Trailhead Access

Travel on Highway 6, and turn north onto Cedar Butte Road between milepost 17 and 18. Use caution as the road gets rough beyond this point and there may be truck traffic. Mark your mileage here and watch for posted signs. Drive over the bridge and continue straight at the Muesial Creek Road junction (0.1 mile). At 2.0 miles turn right at the “Y” intersection. At 4.8 miles the Cedar Butte Road veers left. Continue another 0.7 mile to the trailhead. Park in the wide area at the “Y” intersection and walk 300 feet west down the secondary road to the information board.

About the Trail

The Cedar Butte Trail is open to hikers only. This trail begins at 2,200 feet in an open, harvested forest. Here you can find the dainty flower, Scouler’s harebell, getting a foothold. In early summer, wildflowers are abundant in rock crevices along the trail. As the trail begins to climb to the 2,907-foot summit, make sure to stay right and avoid the stair-like section, which is an old trail that is closed and being rehabilitated.

Hikers will then enter a closed single canopy forest (trees all the same age and height), which resulted from planting efforts after the fires that devastated this area. There are several switchbacks where the trail steepens, and eventually the ground turns from soft dirt to loose rock.

The trail emerges below Cedar Butte giving hikers a view of the goal ahead. The final steep climb to the top pays off with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, the town of Tillamook, the Kings Mountain ridgeline, and the “sea of green” of the Tillamook State Forest. Bring water, wear sturdy hiking boots, and use poles for assistance in the steep sections.

To Cedar Butte Summit

Trail Length: 0.75 mile

Difficulty: Difficult

Elevation Gain: 700 feet

