

2019 SWOCC ELLIOTT STATE FOREST DRAFT RECREATION PLAN

May 14, 2019 Deans Mountain Field Trip

The 2019 Deans Mountain field trip is a synthesis of the 2018 Deans Mountain and Tenmile Lakes field trips. The thematic focus of the trip is different, though, as represented by differing online PDF maps, handouts, and reference links: the 2018 Deans Mountain trip focused on Elliott Indian Trail and Fire Lookout histories; the 2018 Tenmile Lakes trip focused on Lakeside recreational businesses and westside Elliott fisheries; the current 2019 field trip is focused on campground-based recreation and Elliott CCC and road construction histories:

http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/Recreation/Field_Trips/Tenmile_Lakes.html

http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/Recreation/Field_Trips/Deans_Mountain.html

A. Tugman State Park. Take B Loop and brief botany/landscaping/jobs discussion stop at restroom walkway.

B. Tenmile Lake County Park. Take Campground Loop, note boat launch parking, stop at Palm Beach to discuss sawmill history; relative park planning and landscape maintenance jobs and budgets.

C. School Land Bay. History of ownership; differing plan objectives (see pg. 7; 80 acres: Tsp. 23 S., 12 W., Sec. 16). County Road access built by CCCs in 1934. Benson Ridge (4000) Road was built in 1963-64 due to Columbus Day Storm; “first 2nd growth-funded road on the Elliott” (Jerry Phillips, personal communication).

D. Divide Spring. Only spring along Dry Ridge (CCC Dry Ridge Road; now 2000 Road), and used as a deer-hunting base camp by the Gould-McClay families in the late 1800s. Likely an ancient ridgeline trail campsite.

E. CCC Mud Flat Side Camp. At least seven buildings housing 40 men in 1934-35 for constructing road to Cougar Pass Lookout and Loon Lake Junction. Spring now called Elk Wallow waterhole (Phillips 1998: 62).

F. Deans Mountain Lookout. One of the very earliest fire lookouts in Oregon, built 1910-1914. Phillips regards as “the most famous place” in the Elliott because of this statewide renown (Phillips 1998: 58-61).

G. CCC Scholfield Ridge Road. Constructed by CCC men in 1933 to connect Camp Walker with the Deans Mountain Lookout, Cougar Pass Lookout, and Loon Lake by roadway and telephone (Phillips 1998: 52-57).

H. Old-Growth Mix. Unusual pre-1868 Coos Fire mixed old-growth conifer stand of Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, western redcedar, and western hemlock, due to proximity to ocean. “Old-growth” red alder also present.

I. CCC Camp Walker. Constructed in 1933 at mouth of Dry Creek and Scholfield Creek (Tsp. 22 S., Rng. 11 W., Sec. 18) and manned entirely by Oregon young men until 1937. Principal duties were access road, telephone line, and fire lookout construction along Elliott ridgelines (Phillips 1998: 31-36).

Automobile tours and photography through the Elliott by local expert (4 blog posts: 31 pages):

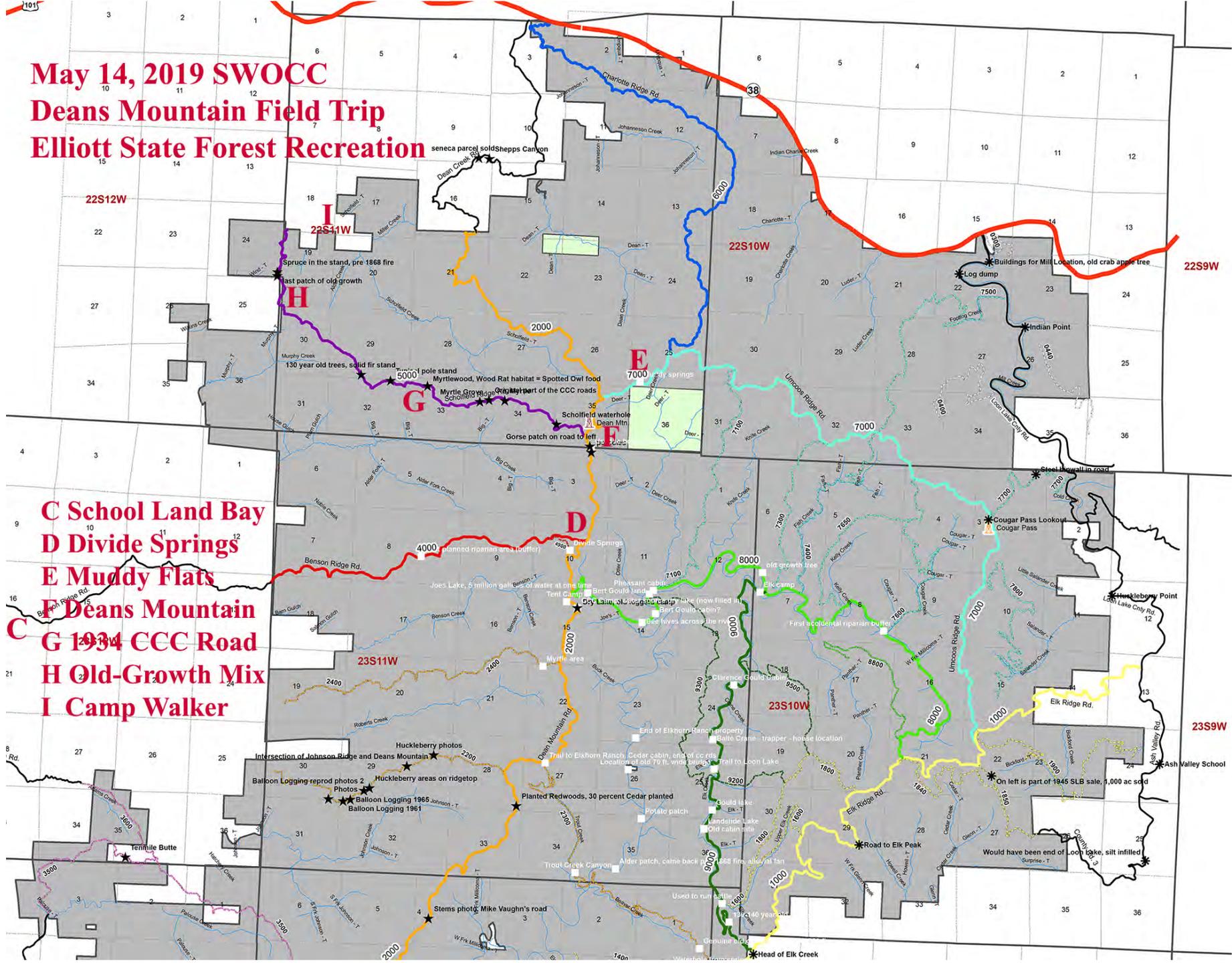
http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/Recreation/Field_Trips/Hargan_20160000.pdf

Coquille Indian research report on Indian trail history and locations southward from Allegany:

http://www.orww.org/Coquille_Trails/References/Zybach-Ivy_2013/index.html

Jerry Phillips’ history of the Elliott State Forest (414 pages):

http://www.orww.org/Elliott_Forest/History/Phillips/Phillips_1998-201.pdf

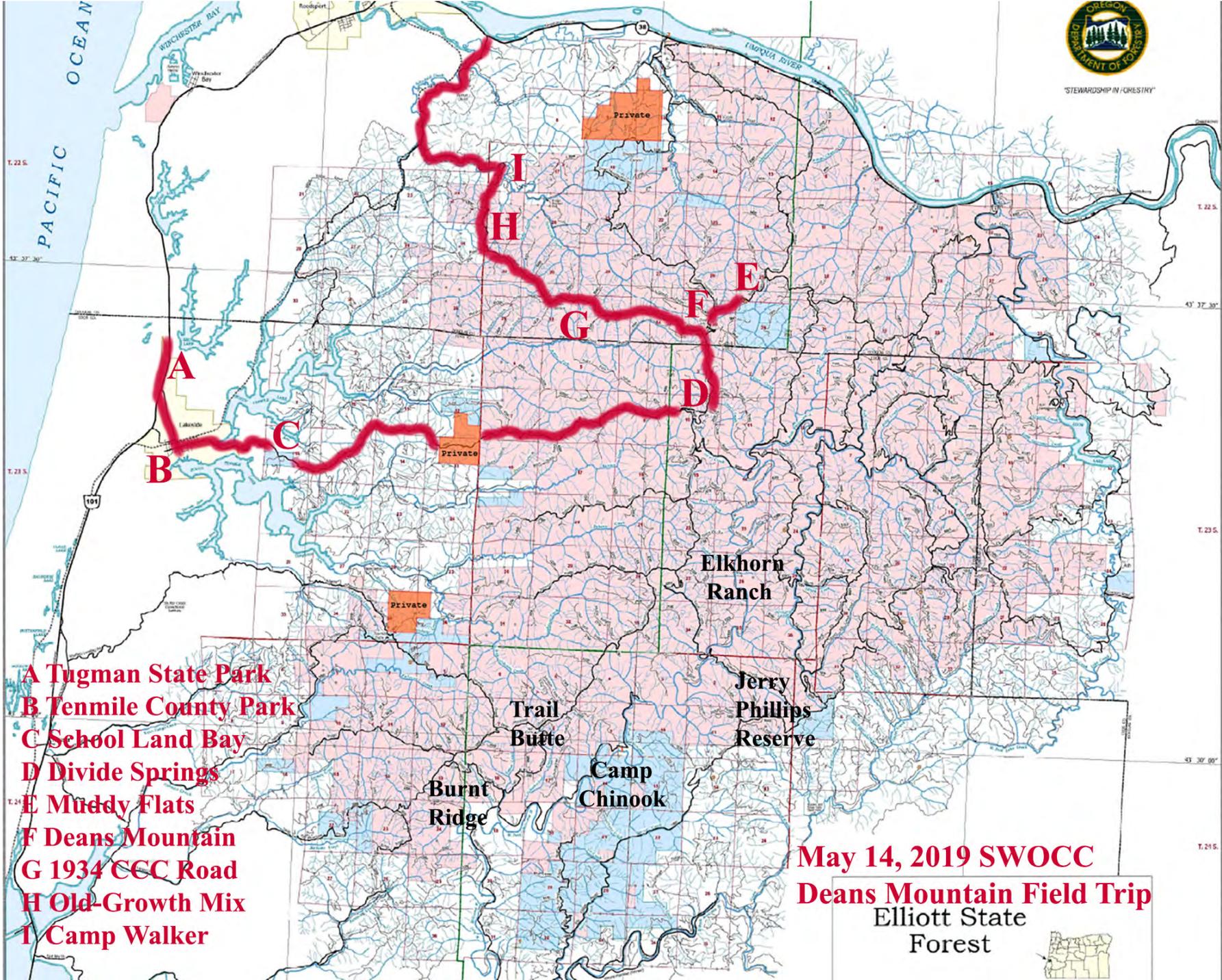


**May 14, 2019 SWOCC
Deans Mountain Field Trip
Elliott State Forest Recreation**

- C** School Land Bay
- D** Divide Springs
- E** Muddy Flats
- F** Deans Mountain
- G** 1934 CCC Road
- H** Old-Growth Mix
- I** Camp Walker



STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY



- A Tugman State Park**
- B Tenmile County Park**
- C School Land Bay**
- D Divide Springs**
- E Muddy Flats**
- F Deans Mountain**
- G 1934 CCC Road**
- H Old-Growth Mix**
- I Camp Walker**

**May 14, 2019 SWOCC
Deans Mountain Field Trip
Elliott State
Forest**





William M. Tugman State Park

Like Tweet

Reserve Online
 or by phone
 M-F 8a-5p
 800.452.5687

Camping: Year Round
Day Use: Year Round



- Park Info**
- Rates
- History/FAQ
- Events
- Brochures/Pix/Video
- Feedback
- Driving Directions

Major Features & Activities



● Indicates that some, but not all, facilities are accessible.

Info: 800.551.6949
Park: 541-759-3604

Reserve Online
 or by phone
 M-F 8a-5p
 800.452.5687

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- History/FAQ**

Park History

The park was acquired between 1962 and 1976 through gifts from the Oregon State Game Commission and purchase from private owners. The park protects the public access to and use of Eel Lake, which over many years had become partly filled with logging debris. The lake was cleaned out by the Game Commission prior to its transfer for park purposes. The area has been developed for camping and day use, including boating and swimming and fishing. The name commemorates William M. Tugman (1894-1961), prominent newspaperman of Eugene and Reedsport. Tugman headed Governor Paul Patterson's State Park Advisory Committee, which made the important citizens' report and recommendations on State Parks in 1956. He became the first chairman of the State Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, which was formed in 1957.

Acreage: 560.48
Annual overnight attendance: 46,511
Annual day-use attendance: 318,580



Fishing Excursion Proposal

Lakeside has a competitive advantage because the lake is stocked throughout the year



Fish in Tenmile Lake by Month

Best Time to Stock	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Winter Steelhead												
Rainbow Trout												
Sea Run Cutthroat Trout												
Yellow Perch												
Largemouth Bass												
Catfish												
Coho Salmon												
Black Crappie												

Departments > Coos County Parks > Tenmile

Tenmile Lakes View



Tenmile Lakes Park



RESERVE NOW →

Tenmile Lake Boat Ramp & Campground is located in Lakeside on Tenmile Lake at the south end of 11th Street and Park Avenue.

Physical address for the boat ramp is 205 S 11th St., Lakeside, OR 97449.

The RV Parks physical address is: 170 S 12th St., Lakeside, OR 97449.

Tenmile Lakes are large, shallow, highly productive freshwater lakes. North & South Tenmile Lakes have a collective surface area estimated at approximately 2,000 acres of water with around 1000 parcels of land bordering. A narrow, shallow canal known as the "North Lake Canal" connects North & South Tenmile Lakes. Tenmile Lakes are the 4th largest lake in the State of Oregon. It is the most used body of water in Coos County, and the 5th heavily used lake in the state.

The lakes provide numerous angling opportunities. Fishing the excellent populations of steelhead, rainbow trout, cut throat trout, largemouth bass, catfish, bluegill, and brown bullhead is enjoyed by thousands of people every year.

The lakes are in a picturesque setting of calm waters surrounded by mountains and lush natural beauty. Tenmile Lakes are excellent for water skiing, wake boarding, swimming, wading, sailing and boating. Outside temperatures often reach into the 70's during the summer months, and it is always enjoyable for a vacation spot or weekend outing.

Boat Ramp facilities include four boat ramps, three handicap accessible service docks and a fishing dock, large parking areas, picnic tables, fish cleaning stand, four horseshoe courts, swimming and wading area, and two handicap accessible restroom buildings with flush toilets. The day use area has a large covered picnic shelter that may be reserved for large gatherings or small picnics. The shelter area contains cold running water and electric outlets.

Campground facilities include 45 RV sites with water and electrical hookups; RV sanitary dump station, restroom/shower building, large extra vehicle parking area, and small tent camping area.

CC Park Menu

- [Park Host](#)
- [Laverne](#)
- [Bastendorff](#)
- [Tenmile](#)
- [Riley Ranch](#)
- [Powers](#)
- [Charleston County Park](#)
- [Sandy Creek Covered Bridge Park](#)
- [Events Calendar](#)

Questions?

Tenmile Park Location
170 S 12th St, Lakeside, OR 97449

County Parks Mailing Address
250 N. Baxter, Coquille, OR 97423

coospark@co.coos.or.us

Park Information

- [County Parks Home Page](#)
- [County Park Host](#)
- [County Parks List](#)
- [Park Rules](#)
- [Day Use Permit](#)
- [Park Map](#)
- [Bird's Eye View](#)

Tenmile County Park Fees

[Park Camping Rates](#)

For more information you may call the park directly 541- 759-3176.

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History of an "80" (on School Land Bay)

By Jerry Phillips
April 30, 2018

- Oregon became a State in 1859.
- when each western state received statehood, it received a federal grant of lands, in lieu of money, to support and build schools. Before Oregon, each state received only one square mile from each 36. But we received two, because we had so little good farmland and were considered to be poor.
- we received $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres of federal lands, mostly stolen from the Indians. they were Sections 16 and 36. Our 80 is in Section 16. School Land Bay
- To receive them, the lands had to be both surveyed and vacant - no claims against them.
- well, in 1859 there were no National Forests, no national parks, no Indian Reservations, and no land surveys. So state ownership came slowly.
- As each area was surveyed, we got title to each Section 16 and 36 - if it was not claimed yet.
- the 80 acre parcel we are talking about this morning was surveyed in 1880 - and it was vacant - so title passed from federal to state - for school value. But it had no stream and no farm land, so it was only a young forest. (A large forest fire had burned it in 1868 - so the trees were only 10 years old.) But our 80" is very close to School Land Bay of South Twelve holes,
- A man did buy the 80 about 1920, but never paid taxes, so lost it to the County.
- In 1935, the CCCs built the County Road through it.
- In 1940 the County deeded it to the State Board of Forestry - for payment of a debt.
- we harvested 60 acres of it in the 1970s, and left the other 20 for scenery. That timber is now 150 years old (nearly old-growth).



Sandstone rock drilling and blasting was a major activity during the construction of the Scholfield -Umpcoos Ridge Roads. Hardhats were unknown, but some wore "pith helmets" such as this man has. Surprisingly, injuries were uncommon. —Photo courtesy C.F.P.A. files

And that is the last that we read in the records I researched about the Lakeside Landing Field. It continued to be used after the improvement of Coos Bay area airfields, but perhaps to a lesser degree. Certainly, our Department continued to use it during the remaining years during which CCC Camp Reedsport continued to exist. This has always been an exciting field to fly out of, because when small planes get about one hundred feet in the air and clear the treetops of the surrounding shore pines, they are hit by a strong crosswind off the ocean and the sand dunes, and they seem to sort of jump sideways.

* * *

Note: "TC" above refers to The Courier newspaper and "FL" above refers to Forest Log.

THE DEAN'S MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT

The Dean's Mountain Lookout was one of the oldest, longest-occupied, and best-known lookouts in all of Oregon. To many people, it was the only landmark in the Elliott State Forest they knew. Because of its fame and very long history, including its involvement with the CCC program, I want to provide an in-depth review of its lively past.

After the Siuslaw National Forest was created, back in 1908, one of its first actions on the ground was to build a small number of lookouts to overlook the historically fire-ravaged coast range lands it was mandated to protect. The earliest were built between 1910 and 1914, and one of those was on Dean's Mountain — only 1,818 feet in elevation, but with a good 360-degree view, especially with nearly all the timber in the area having been killed in the 1868 Coos Bay Fire. A simple old-fashioned "ground house" sufficed nicely for the first 25 years.

The first structure there seems to have been just a rough shake "cabin," as pictured on the next page. The Walker family lived at the foot of the access trail, on upper Scholfield Creek, just as their descendants do today, and Jennie Walker was likely only the second person to "man" the Dean's Mountain Lookout. She is pictured here, in 1917, with her saddle horse. Jennie was Al Walker's sister (some of us remember Al), and her niece, Margery Finley, still lives on the ranch today. She remembers that Jennie's Mom and Dad wouldn't let her stay up there alone, so her younger sister went up too. Jennie would have been 23 in 1917. She also says that the shack up there was in pretty bad shape by 1917; even skunks would crawl in through the big cracks between the walls and the dirt floor. As a result, Jennie and her 10-year-old sister hung all their food in sacks suspended from the rafters.

Ron Johnson, of Oakridge, who has documented much of the history of lookouts in Oregon, says that it is known that Dean's Mountain Lookout operated in 1915, also, because it reported a fire that summer which was actually a burning ship off the mouth of the Umpqua. We may never know the precise first year of operation of the Dean's Mountain station, but my estimate is 1914.

The access trail ran up the ridge on the east side of Dry Creek, just across from what later was to become the big CCC Camp Walker, thence up to the Scholfield Divide, then on east to the top of Dean's Mountain. This pack trail brought in all needs, lumber, food, people, and all, for twenty years — until the CCC road crew reached the lookout in 1934, and it was also the location of the "ground line" telephone wire that served for communication until radios came in about 1939.

We are blessed with many photos of the old buildings which have existed on Dean's Mountain over the 77 years of structure history there, and I thank all who have allowed theirs to be used here.

The cedar-shaked shack (right) was the first building on Dean's Mountain, built as a shelter for the Siuslaw National Forest lookout. Note the lone second-growth Douglas-fir tree in the back right hand corner, which is in nearly all Dean's Mountain Lookout photos. The shack had no cupola on top, so where was the firefinder? It had none. Many lookouts in 1917 still simply "shot" the smokes with a hand compass.

One reason I estimate construction of this shack as from 1914 is that Dave Cooper's father's written history of the Siskiyou National Forest includes an entry to the effect that its first lookout building was a **shake shack** built on Bald Knob **in 1914** "for a total cost of 25¢ in nails." (Furthermore, it was built by the lookout!). Before the shack, a tent was used, of course, just as on Elk's Peak.

The famous Osborne Fire-finder, first invented in 1911, and repeatedly improved up through 1934, was coming into general use by 1917, and the Dean's Mountain Lookout was likely rebuilt to make use of this new instrument, with the cupola on top for its location.

Fire hazard on the Siuslaw National Forest, including the future State Forest portion lying south of the Umpqua River, was beginning to lessen by the 1920s, but this portion, seen from Dean's Mountain, still contained tens of thousands of tall, rotten snags from the big 1868 Coos Bay Fire.

In the photo on the following page, taken at Dean's Mountain Lookout **imme-**



Jennie Walker at Dean's Mtn. Lookout, in 1917. Note that the materials for each of the first three buildings there had to be brought in on pack horses. The CCC access road finally reached Dean's Mtn. in 1934. This photo is from the Yaquina Tollefson collection, and is used here with permission from her daughter, Margery Finley.



This was the second building which served as the Dean's Mtn. Lookout. It was built by the U.S. Forest Service, perhaps around 1920. Again, note the lone tree. —Photo circa 1925.



The “Osborne” Fire Lookout photo, above, was taken April 17, 1934 by Robert L. Cooper, hired out of OSC forestry school in 1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to help complete this project on all western US forests. The 270-degree mark on the photo points due west; the color photo (below) is taken from approximately the same vantage point with an iPhone on December 6, 2017 and is also facing due west. Note the ocean on the horizon and glimpses of sand dunes – also the telephone poles in 1934 (Phillips 1998: 88-91)





1934-1935 ~ Mud Flats CCC Side Camp ~ SW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 25, T22S R11W —Photo courtesy of Al Dorsey



Allyn L. Dorsey
First Sergeant

Dorsey, vigorous resident of Reedsport in 1994, joined the CCCs and served at Camp Walker from July 10, 1934 into 1937. He supplied good information and materials to help in this writing. —Photo from CCC records, in 1937, when he was 21 years old.



CAMP WALKER (S-204)

During the period 1934 through September 1937. Located on Upper Walker Ranch along Scholfield Creek —Photo by Kinsey