

Ashland Newcomers Hiking Group

July 19, 2001

Hikes take place on Wednesdays. Meet in Safeway parking lot in Ashland at 9:00 am; car pools will leave for trailhead at 9:10 am. Normally, we should return to Safeway between 1:00 and 2:00 pm. Heavy rain cancels.

Coordinator: Alex Maksymowicz 482-1964

Description of next two hikes.

July 25, 2001: Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) around Big Red Mountain

Trailhead: Wrangel Gap on Forest Service Road #20, some 11-12 miles beyond Mt. Ashland ski area. Road is dusty and rough in places; sedans can make it, but high clearance vehicles are preferable.

Hike 4 miles one way from the PCT trailhead at Wrangel Gap to the intersection of the PCT and Road #20 just east of Siskiyou Gap. Car shuttle will take drivers back to Wrangel Gap to pick up their vehicles. Elevation drop of around 850 feet. Trail is in the open for the most part; it is rocky in places. Great views and lots of flowers.

Hike was truncated after futile search for Erika Bird, who had stopped off to get photographed with her former hiking group near Grouse Gap. We hiked from Siskiyou Gap for some 1.5 miles, ate lunch, and retraced out steps.

August 1, 2001: Pacific Crest Trail north off Dead Indian Memorial Highway.

Trailhead: Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) at Dead Indian Memorial Highway.

Hike towards Brown Mountain about 2 miles along PCT; return the same way. Modest elevation gain. Trail is in the woods—cool, but no spectacular views.

These are easy hikes in terms of elevation gain for people who are getting started or are out of shape. We will have some hikes with moderate elevation gain later on.

Schedule beyond August 1 remains to be determined. Once we're better organized, we'll print hike descriptions in the Newcomers Newsletter a month in advance.

Equipment: sturdy boots with good ankle support are recommended although not essential. Bring water (about 1 quart/liter per person on hot days) and lunch. Temperatures are usually cool in the morning, warming up towards mid-day—easy on/off layers of clothing are a good idea. Use a hat and sunscreen to protect against sunburn. Rain happens—carry a poncho or be prepared to enjoy the liquid sunshine. Insect repellent could also come in handy, especially for midsummer hikes near water.