

Day Hikes

Happy Camp Ranger District Klamath National Forest



Slider Creek Trail

Leave No Trace

Natural Areas are fragile and we need your help to protect and maintain them for future visitors to enjoy. Leave any area looking like you've never been there. Stay on designated trails to reduce erosion and scarring problems. When hiking in areas without trails, avoid paths that disturb streambanks, lakeshores, meadows, or wildlife. The wilderness belongs to you. Please help protect this special place by practicing low impact traveling.

Clear Creek trail/ No-Mans Trailhead

Drive 7 miles south on Highway 96; turn right on FS road 15N32. Follow the signs to the Clear Creek Trail/No-Mans Trailhead. This easy 1.2 mile day hike follows an old logging road down to Clear Creek. While hiking on this trail, watch for rattlesnakes as they are commonly seen in this area. This is a very popular swimming area, with deep emerald pools. The lower section of this creek is closed to fishing. Hiking difficulty, easy to moderate. Normally open year round.

Community River Walk

This trail is located at the River Park on Park Way in Happy Camp. This ¼ mile interpretive trail travels along the edge of the Klamath River. This is a place where you can view many species of birds, wildlife, dragonflies, and fish spawning areas. Signs along the trail describe various points of interest and locations where these species can be viewed. The trail ends at the Klamath River Bridge in Happy Camp. Hiking difficulty, easy. Normally open year round.

Dillon Creek Trail

Access for this trail is found by driving 23 miles south of Happy Camp on Highway 96. One will find the trail just across the bridge from Dillon Creek Campground. This low elevation trail follows Dillon Creek on a small footpath 1000 ft. above the creek, which provides for outstanding views of the Dillon Creek drainage. This trail has very sheer bluffs and is not recommended for small children or stock. The lower portion of this creek is closed to fishing. Hiking difficulty, easy to moderate. Normally open year round.

Elk Creek Trail/Sulphur Springs

This trail is reached from Happy Camp by crossing the Klamath River Bridge in Happy Camp. Follow the Elk Creek Road for 13 miles. The trail leaves Sulphur Springs Campground and follows along Elk Creek winding through old growth forest. A 2 mile hike up the trail leads to a small, designated picnic area by the creek. There are many spots to access the creek from this trail. For a longer trip, hikers can continue a pleasant walk along the creek towards the northern border of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. The lower portion of this creek is closed to fishing. Hiking difficulty, easy to moderate. The lower portion of this trail is normally open year round.

Fort Goff Trail

This trail is accessed 16 miles east of Happy Camp right off of Highway 96. This little known trail starts at the historic Fort Goff Cemetery. The trail climbs slowly up above Fort Goff Creek through old growth forest. There are several areas to access Fort Goff Creek from the trail. For people that are



United States
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Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region

Klamath National Forest
Happy Camp Ranger District
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(Fort Goff Trail cont.)

interested in a longer hike this trail follows along the creek for 12 miles. The lower portion of this creek is closed to fishing. Hiking difficulty, easy to moderate. Normally open year around.

Grider Creek Trail

This trail is reached from Happy Camp by driving east on Highway 96 for 20 miles. Take Walker Creek Road/FS Road 46N66 and follow the Pacific Crest Trail signs to the trailhead. This section of the Pacific Crest Trail provides a cool, shady hike up the Grider Creek drainage through stands of old growth forest. It is a great hike on a hot summer day. For people interested in longer hikes, this trail follows the creek for approximately 12 miles. The lower portion of this creek is closed to fishing. Hiking difficulty, easy to moderate. The lower portion of this trail is usually open year round.

Elbow Springs/Bear Lake Trailhead

Drive approximately 10 miles south on Highway 96 and turn on to FS Road 15N19. Follow the road signs to the Kelsey Trail/Elbow Springs Trailhead (one hour from Happy Camp). This trail winds gradually through areas of old burns, and on to a ridge which provides an outstanding view of the Siskiyou high country and surrounding area. This trail also passes near Bear Peak and through Little Bear Valley. Follow the trail 3 miles to Bear Lake (not to be confused with Bear Lake in the Marble Mountains). This lake rests in the southeastern portion of the Siskiyou Wilderness. Lower Bear Lake can be reached by traveling a quarter mile farther to the north. These lakes are open to fishing. Hiking difficulty, moderate. Normally open June - October.

Happy Camp, CA 95926
709/252-2222 (office) or
709/252-1777 (toll-free)

Kelly Lake

Travel Indian Creek Road North 13 miles from Happy Camp. Turn on to FS Road 18N31, and then follow the road signs to this small wilderness lake. Enjoy the solitude of Kelly Lake or hike to Poker Flat on the trail at the opposite end of the lake. This lake is stocked seasonally with rainbow trout and is open to fishing. Hiking difficulty, easy. The hike continuing up to Poker Flat is a 3-mile climb. Hiking difficulty, moderate to difficult. Normally open June-October.

Klamath River Trail

Accessed by two trailheads; Benjamin Creek is located 2 miles south of Happy Camp. Turn right on to FS Road 17N16 for approximately 1 mile. Oak Flat Creek is 6 miles south of Happy Camp right off Highway 96. This trail travels above the Wild & Scenic Klamath River providing several scenic outlooks and a good opportunity to view Osprey and Bald Eagles. Hiking difficulty, easy to moderate. Normally open year round.

Poker Flat Trailhead

Travel 15 miles north on Indian Creek road and turn left on to FS road 18N33. Follow this road to 18N30, turn right and continue on this road to Poker Flat. Poker Flat is an amazing area with a large, high mountain meadow, and ancient old growth forest. Hike out the Twin Valley Trail for great views of the Siskiyou high country, or take the 3 mile hike down to Kelly Lake. Hiking difficulty, moderate. Normally open June-October.

Klamath National Forest Interpretive Office
1212 Parkside Road
Yreka, CA 95957
709/252-2121 (office)
or 709/252-9411 (toll-free)

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Pacific Crest Trail North (Three Devil's)

18 miles east of Happy Camp right off Highway 96, the Pacific Crest Trail climbs north towards the Red Buttes Wilderness. This moderate to strenuous hike up the Three Devil's provides great views of the Wild & Scenic Klamath River, and the surrounding area. This trail is on an exposed ridged and is best enjoyed during the cooler months. Hiking difficulty, difficult. Normally open year around, however higher elevations may not be passable because of snow from October through May.

Town Trail

The closest day hike near town. Travel 1 mile up Elk Creek road and turn right into the parking area. The trail begins just across the road and gently climbs 1.2 miles through mature forest to a vantage point that provides excellent views of the community of Happy Camp and the Klamath River corridor. Hiking difficulty, moderate. Normally open year round.

Drinking Water

Surface water is scarce along many of these trails. Do not drink water that has not been treated or boiled.

Campfire Permits & Safety

A campfire permit is required to build an open campfire or use a campstove. Follow the terms on the permit for building and extinguishing campfires. Use dead and down wood only. Build fires in firepans or existing fire rings whenever possible. Keep it small, and never start a fire when windy. Check on current fire conditions and restrictions before beginning your trip.

Trail conditions are subject to change and there are very few signs on trails. It is advisable to obtain maps of the areas you plan to visit. For current information contact:

Happy Camp Ranger District
63822 Highway 96, P.O. Box 377
Happy Camp, CA 96039
(530) 493-2243 (voice) or
(530) 493-1777 (TDD)

Klamath National Forest Supervisor's Office
1312 Fairlane Road
Yreka, CA 96097
(530) 842-6131 (voice)
or (530) 841-4573 (TDD)

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