

Fishing Regulations

- Use artificial flies and lures only (no bait).
- Maximum two trout per day, between 10-13 inches, may be kept.
- Only adipose fin clipped steelhead may be kept.
- Wild steelhead must be released unharmed. Do not remove them from the water.
- Salmon regulations change frequently. Please check with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for current regulations.

Boater Pass Regulations

- A Deschutes boater pass is required per day, per person on the lower Deschutes River at any time you are using a flotation device. Passes may be purchased online at www.boaterpass.com.
- You may use a Heritage to Columbia pass instead of a Deschutes pass if you are traveling straight from the Heritage Landing boat ramp to the Columbia River. This pass is \$1 per person, per day, or \$15 annually. It is available at the park.

www.oregonstateparks.org



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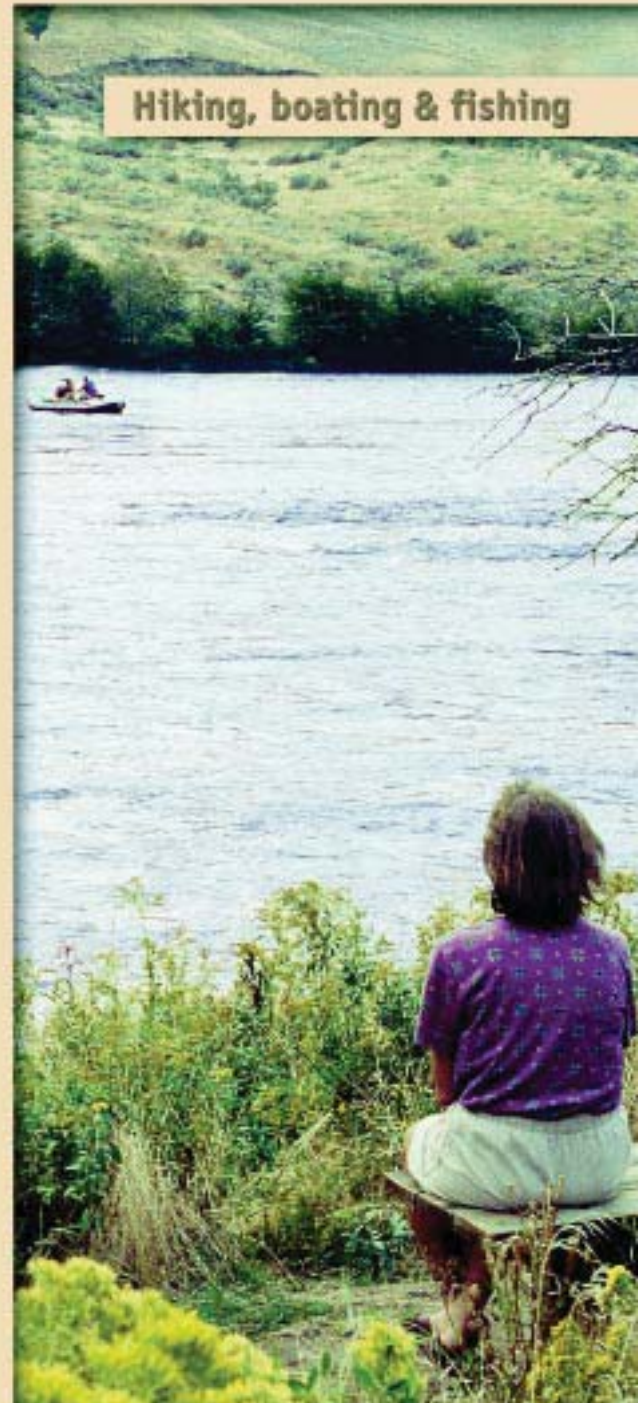
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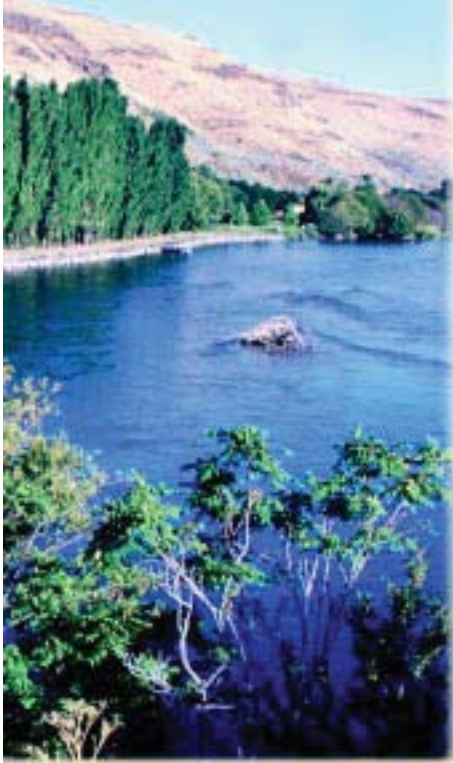
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Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Deschutes State Recreation Area Trail Guide





Welcome to **Deschutes** State Recreation Area

The Deschutes River has a rich cultural and historic heritage within its steep canyon walls. Native Americans have inhabited the river's banks since long before the appearance of Euro-Americans, fishing for salmon and living off the land.

William Graham was the area's first settler and homesteader in 1858. Eastern emigrants originally passed up the area for the promise of the rich and fertile Willamette Valley. Construction of a railway through the area changed this, though, and people began to stay. The river is still sought out today by people of all ages and interests.

The peaceful, cool waters of the Deschutes River are one of the many draws of this park.

A Park for Everyone

Deschutes State Recreation Area offers everything from fly-fishing to whitewater rafting and boating, and is a great spot for a peaceful afternoon picnic or weekend getaway from the city.

The campground has 34 electrical campsites, 25 primitive sites, four group areas, with restrooms near all. A boat ramp is conveniently located across the river from the campground. Trails provide excellent wildlife viewing and other recreation (see inside).

While you visit, please remember to follow these simple rules:

- Stay on trails. Shortcuts cause erosion and harm plants and wildlife.
- Dogs must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet.
- Do not litter. If you pack it in, pack it out.
- Take only pictures of the wildlife. Do not disturb them. It is unlawful to pick or dig any sort of plant, or to harass or capture wild animals.



Signs mark the beginning of all Deschutes SRA trails.

Deschutes River Railbed Trail

The Oregon Railway and Navigation Company began running trains along the bank of the Columbia River in 1881. When this railway connected to the transcontinental line in 1883, you couldn't keep Eastern settlers out of the area.



Biking is great on the old railbed trail.

Railroad Wars

Railway competition was fierce at this time. Owners saw how people were responding to this new mode of transportation and did everything they could to build more railway lines than their competitors. Competition was so extreme in Oregon that in 1909, a fight broke out between James J. Hill and E.H. Harriman over who would build a railway along the Deschutes River. Hill set out to build a railroad that would reach San Francisco. He began at the mouth of the Columbia and planned to run tracks 165 miles along the Deschutes to Bend. This worried Harriman, who, in response, set out to lay tracks on the other side of the Deschutes River.

An all-out war began in the river canyon between these two railroad giants. Construction crews set off dynamite and pushed boulders off cliffs towards the other construction crews to interfere with construction. When the two crews reached a place in the canyon where there was only one way through,

Harriman bought the right of way to the land. Hill was forced to make a deal promising not to extend his railway past Bend. In exchange, he could use Harriman's track, which was necessary for his railroad to function.

Today's Trail

Today, you won't find bandits hiding out waiting to ambush you, but you will find a 32-mile round trip great for biking, fishing and wildlife viewing. The trail is a semi-wilderness experience, so if you plan to travel far, you need to consider some safety guidelines before you start: bring plenty of drinking water with you, summer temperatures can soar well past 100 degrees; wear proper attire for the weather, and if you are on a bike, bring a patch kit and watch for rattlesnakes. Note: There is a \$5 fee for overnight parking.

Horseback Riding

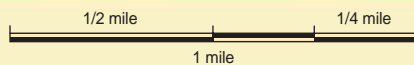
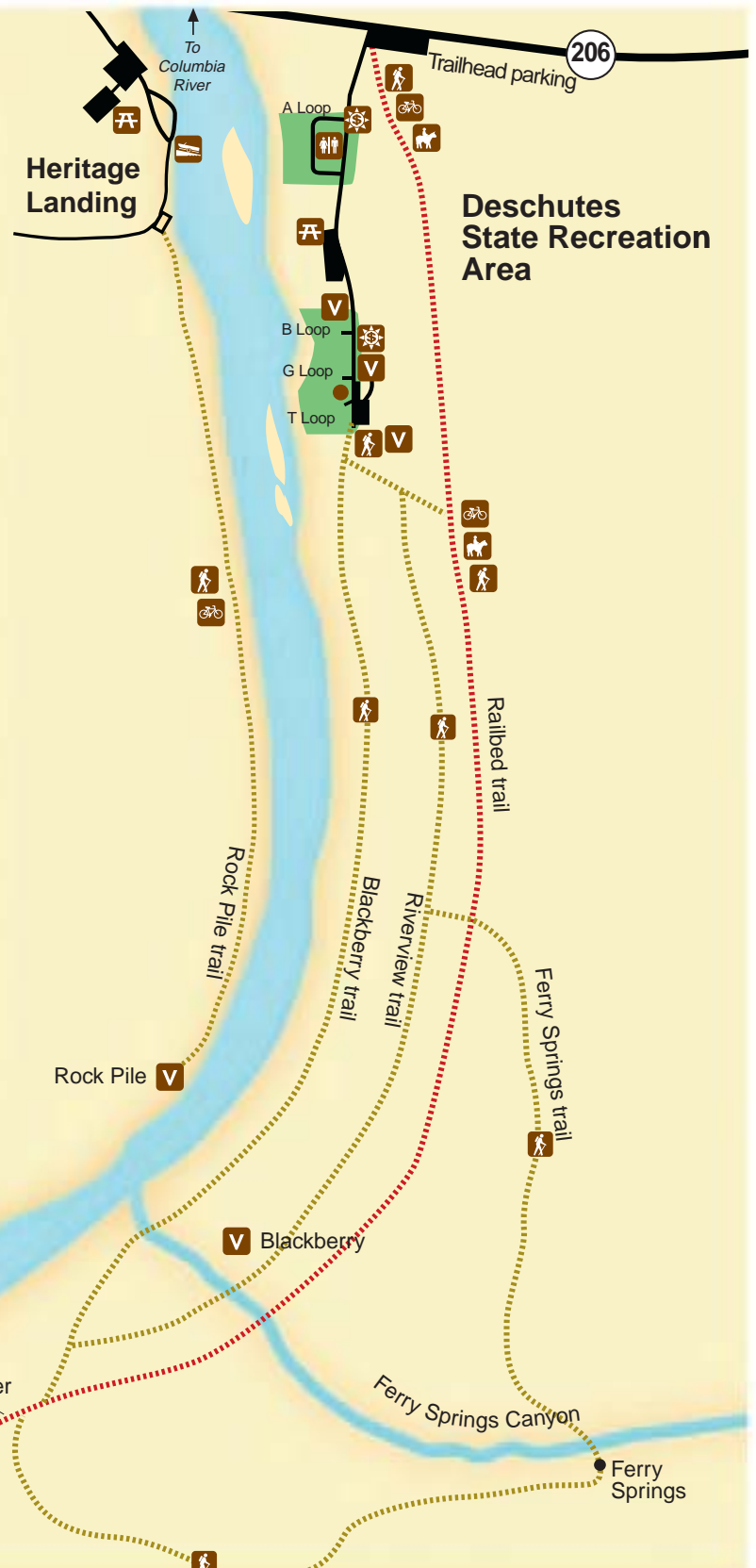
Horseback riding is by reservation only, and is very popular on the old Railbed trail.

- Horseback riding is day-use only and is open from March 1 to June 30.
- Only 10 horses per day are allowed on the trail.
- For reservations call Reservations Northwest at 1-800-452-5687.

The Five Trails

- **The Rock Pile** trail runs along the west bank of the Deschutes where hiking and biking are allowed. This trail is not maintained.
- **The Blackberry** 2-mile trail runs along the bank of the Deschutes.
- **The Riverview** trail travels 2 miles up the river, with excellent scenic views. This trail connects to the Blackberry trail making a complete loop.
- **The Ferry Springs** trail begins where the Blackberry trail meets the old Railbed trail. This 2-mile hike takes you to Rattlesnake Viewpoint and through Ferry Springs Canyon.
- The fifth trail is the **old Railbed trail**, which is a 32-mile round trip trail down the Deschutes River. Dispersed camping allowed after the 2-mile marker.

Biking is allowed on the Rock Pile and Railbed trails only.



LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Restroom | Hiking Trail |
| Fee Station | Bike Trail |
| Boat Ramp | Horse Trail |
| Picnic Area | Vault Toilet |

- Biking/Equestrian Trail
- Hiking Trail Loop
- Designated Camping (Reservable)
- Road
- Parking