



RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

Olympic National Forest

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic>



Mt. Walker Viewpoint

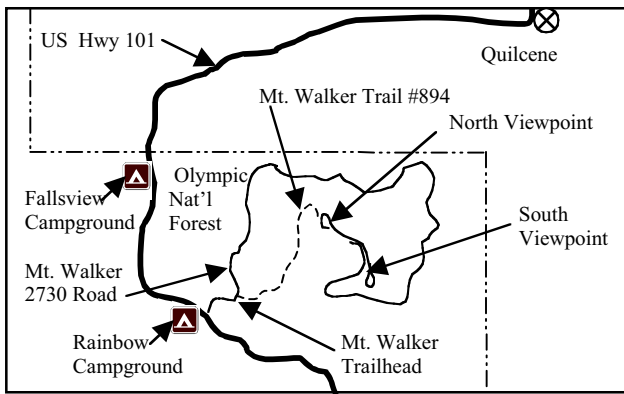
Hood Canal District - Quilcene Office
295142 Highway 101 S. P.O. Box 280
Quilcene, WA 98376 (360) 765-2200

Recommended Season
SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER



ACCESS: Mt. Walker is the only peak facing Puget Sound that has a road to its summit. This popular drive begins five miles south of Quilcene on U S Highway 101. Forest Service Road 2730 (Mt. Walker Viewpoint Road) will take the visitor 4 miles to Mount Walker's summit (2,804 feet). The gravel road is narrow and steep with some turnouts and is not recommended for trailers or motorhomes.

Mt. Baker is the fourth highest peak in Washington state with a glacial system second only to Mt. Rainier. On a very clear day, Mt. Baker can be seen to the northeast. Buckhorn Mountain consists of three peaks just north of Marmot Pass. Quilcene Bay is a sheltered arm of the Hood Canal, providing boat haven, and oyster farms for the world-famous Quilcene oysters.



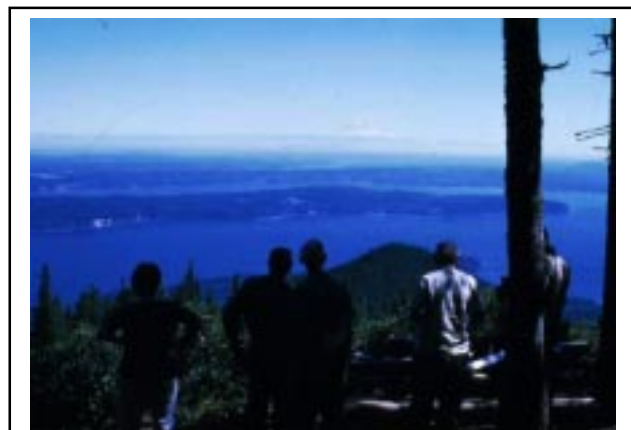
SOUTH VIEWPOINT INFORMATION:

Hood Canal is a vast arm of Puget Sound. The trough was created as the Vashon Glacier gouged its way southward during the glacial period 10,000 years ago. Hood Canal Floating Bridge links the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas. Mount Rainier, at 14,410 feet, is the highest peak in the state. The mountain is an ice-clad volcano rising over 9,000 feet above the surrounding foothills. Its glacial system is the largest on any single peak in the contiguous United States. In the distance, major metropolitan areas can also be seen: Everett 33 miles away, Seattle, 28 miles away; and Tacoma 39 miles away. On a clear day you can see the Seattle Space Needle.

FACILITIES: Two viewpoints (North and South) with parking areas and vault toilets. Two picnic tables at the North viewpoint. No water.

SETTING: Mt. Walker is densely covered with 100 year-old Douglas-fir trees that have grown up in an area that once was burned by fire. Native Pacific rhododendrons grow along the road and at both viewpoints. The large flowers are bright purplish-pink and bloom May to June.

NORTH VIEWPOINT INFORMATION: Mt. Jupiter can be seen through the notch just west of Buck Mountain. It is the closest high peak to Hood Canal. Mt. Constance is the third highest peak in the Olympics. Its gigantic rock faces are some of the most spectacular on the Peninsula. Big Quilcene Canyon is fed by hundreds of smaller streams.



Many visitors each year enjoy the panoramic views of Mt. Rainier, Puget Sound and Seattle from the summit of Mt. Walker.