Japanese Bombsite Trail #1118
Gold Beach Ranger Station
29279 Ellensburg Avenue
Gold Beach, Oregon 97444
Telephone: (541) 247-3600
https://www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou

SEASON: Year Round
TRAIL LENGTH: 1.6 miles round-trip
LEVEL OF USE: Heavy
ELEVATION: 1,200 feet
DIFFICULTY: Easy

Information: The interpretive trail provides access to and tells the tale of the Wheeler Ridge Japanese Aerial Bombing Site, the location of the first bombardment by enemy aircraft of the United States. It is one of only two such aerial incidents ever to occur on mainland American soil. On September 9, 1942, two incendiary bombs were dropped in the hopes of starting a wildfire. However, due to damp weather at that time, the fire did little damage and was easily extinguished. A small deck provides a view of the bomb site, which today shows little evidence of its history.

Getting There: From Brookings, OR, travel south on Highway 101 across the Chetco River bridge. Turn right immediately after the bridge, onto the South Bank Chetco River Road (County Road 808). Continue on South Bank Road (which travels through residential areas) until a junction leading uphill on the right to Forest Road 1205. (Note: There are a few private driveways before reaching the Forest Boundary.) Continue on Forest Road 1205 approximately 13 miles to the trailhead. The trailhead is located at the junction of the Forest Road 1205 and Forest Road 260.

Considerations: Parking is limited. It is suggested to park near the intersection of Forest Roads 1205 and 260 and walk to the trail’s beginning (approximately 200 feet). Drinking water is not available; please plan accordingly.