RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

Middle Fork National Recreation Trail #950
Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District
6941 Upper Applegate Road
Jacksonville, Oregon 97530
Telephone: (541) 899-3800
https://www.fs.usda.gov/rogue-siskiyou

LENGTH: 5.7 miles (one way)
SEASON: April through October
LEVEL OF USE: Medium
ELEVATION: 2860-4200 feet

Trail Information: The Middle Fork National Recreation Trail is a beautiful hike or horseback ride that follows the Middle Fork of the Applegate River. This trail offers opportunities for swimming in the emerald pools of the river, fishing for brook trout, or picnicking along the river’s edge. This is a great hike to view autumn colors!

Beginning on Forest Road 1035, the Middle Fork National Recreation Trail passes through lush fern grottos, unique pothole formations, and deep swimming pools. The forest displays a spectacular variety that includes alder, dogwood and big leaf maple.

The upper section of the trail is within the Red Butte Wilderness for approximately 0.5 miles. The forest changes dramatically, to mixed stands of old-growth Douglas-fir, white fir, incense cedar, and ponderosa pine. Huckleberry, hazelnut, and vine maple create a lush understory.

Access: From Ruch, OR, travel south on Upper Applegate Road for 18.8 miles to the junction with Carberry Creek Road (County Road 777) and turn left (southeast). Proceed 1.5 miles to the junction of FS Roads 1040 and 1050. Turn right on Forest Road 1040 and follow for 5 miles to the junction with FS Road 1035. Continue straight ahead on FS Road 1035 for 0.1 miles to the trailhead sign and large parking area on the left.

Considerations: The upper section of this trail is not recommended for horses due to the narrow tread and rocky creek crossings. The trailhead on Forest Road 1035 provides the best access for equestrians, with reasonable turnaround room for vehicles with trailers.

Prepare for your hike! Carry plenty of water; although there are several springs found along the trail, the water sources have not been tested and may be unsafe to drink without treatment.

Photo Credit: Kevin Jantzer