

Crater Lake Trail #800

Crater Lake Trail begins at the parking lot on the north end of Overland Reservoir. It follows the shoreline of the reservoir for approximately one mile then turns and parallels Cow Creek through a large open area known as Elk Park. It is almost entirely in the open, offering wide open views. However, it is not well marked and can be confusing in the spring when the vegetation has overgrown the trail. It eventually crosses Cow Creek, which can be a difficult crossing during spring run off but improves in late summer. After crossing the creek the trail enters spruce/fir forest until it reaches Crater Lake. Mosquitoes can be very thick until late in the summer. The weather can change quickly and dramatically in this area, with thunderstorms occurring most afternoons in the late summer—be prepared. In the evening and early morning elk and deer can be seen grazing in the open park.

Don't forget your camera!



USDA FOREST SERVICE

Trail Ethics:

The Crater Lake Trail is maintained for foot, horse, bicycle and snowmobile travel. Please don't cut across switchbacks or create new trails.



Motors & Machines:

Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the Crater Lake Trail with the exception of snowmobiles during the winter season.



Drinking Water:

DO NOT drink water directly from a river or stream. Water needs to be treated first by either filtering, boiling for at least 10 minutes or treating with iodine tablets.



Multiple use:

As you use this area you may notice that the Forest is managed for a broad range of uses. Recreation use alone includes hiking, horseback riding, hunting, snowmobiling and sightseeing. In addition, the vegetation in the Forest requires some form of management. Timber harvest and livestock grazing are both forms of land management you may encounter while using this area. The livestock grazing on this area is managed in a very progressive and specific manner. The fences and gates that you may see are critical to managing the livestock and meeting the resource objectives that are planned for this area. Please close all gates that you open as you travel through the area. Controlling the livestock in the manner that we have planned is important.



Be prepared for inclement weather at all times.

Familiarize yourself with the area.



Please don't litter!

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#800

Length 2.5 Miles



Crater Lake
Photo by Anne Williams Paonia R.D.

**Gunnison National Forest
Paonia Ranger District**



For any questions or comments please contact:
Paonia Ranger District
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E-Mail: lbroyles@fs.fed.us or vullrey@fs.fed.us



Crater Lake Trail #800



Trail Beginning: Overland Reservoir.

Trail Ending: Crater Lake.

Access: Follow Steven's Gulch Road #701 to Forest Road #705 to the north end of Overland Reservoir.

Use: Foot, Horse, Bicycle and Snowmobile

Recommended Seasons:



USGS quad maps: Chalk Mountain.

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is permitted in most areas of the Forest. Recreation maps are available at all local Forest Service offices and personnel can answer questions on specific sites. Camping in undeveloped areas requires more from the camper to help keep the site in the condition in which it was found. If you Pack it in- Pack it out!

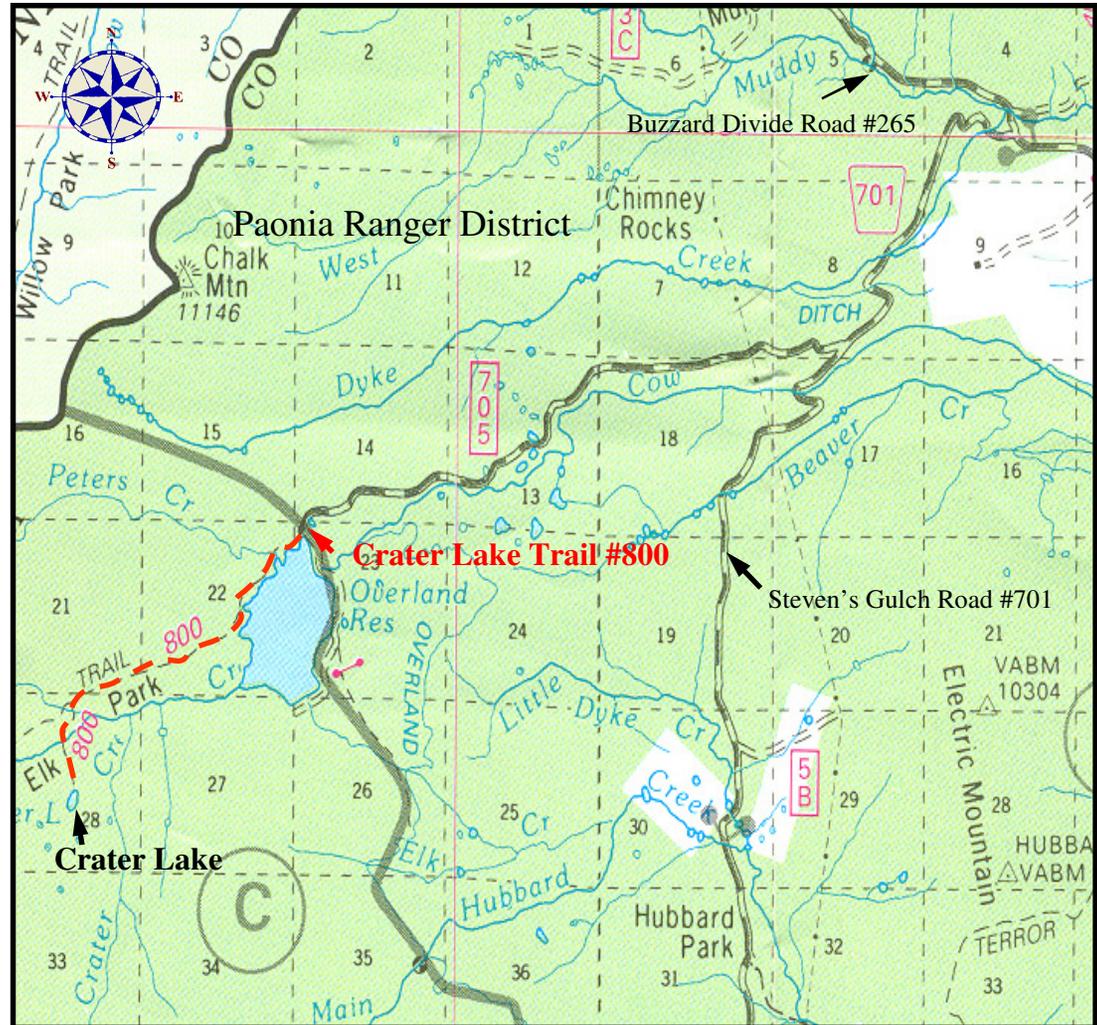
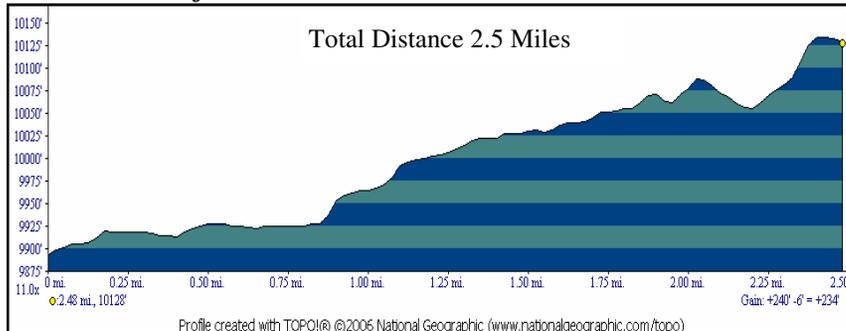


Fire Safety:

Check in with your local Forest Service office to see if fire bans are in effect.



Elevation Profile:



Principles of Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors