

# Ruckel Creek Trail #405



## Recreation Opportunity Guide

Distance..... 6 miles (one way)  
Elevation..... 100-4100 feet  
Snow Free ..... June to October



**Trail Highlights:** This trail is in the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area. This is a more challenging hike that winds through a variety of forest habitats with spectacular views.

**Trail Description:** This trail begins at Gorge Trail # 400 in the Columbia Gorge and ends at the Pacific Crest Trail #2000. The steep Ruckel Creek Trail offers a wide variety of scenery, botany, and wildlife as it climbs up one of the southern faces of the Columbia Gorge. The trail forks after the forested Benson Plateau about 5 miles out. The trail on the right side (past a "Trail Not Maintained" sign) provides a perfect lunch spot and turnaround point next to Ruckel Creek. NOTE: Ruckel Ridge is not maintained or marked and is not a system trail. Eagle-Benson Trail #434 is not maintained and is very difficult to follow - it is not a recommended tie between Ruckel and Eagle Creek #440.

### Regulations & Leave No Trace Information:

- Group size is limited to 12. Stock are counted in the group size. For example, 3 people riding their own horse plus a spare horse in the group for packing would make a group of 7.

#### Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare: Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces: Use established trails and campsites.
- Dispose of Waste Properly: Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Leave What You Find: Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Minimize Campfire Impacts: Use established fire rings & keep fires small.
- Respect Wildlife: Control pets at all times.
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors: Avoid loud voices and noises.

For information on **Leave No Trace**, go to [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) or call 1-800-332-4100

For current trail conditions and more recreation information go to:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mthood>

Map and driving directions on next page

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16400 Champion Way  
Sandy, OR 97055  
503-668-1700

Hood River Ranger District  
6780 Hwy 35  
Parkdale, Oregon 97041  
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