

# Gorton Creek Trail #408

## Recreation Opportunity Guide



Northwest  
Forest Pass  
Required  
May 15-Oct 1

Distance..... 8.9 miles (one way)  
Elevation..... 1040-4700 feet  
Snow Free ..... June to October



**Trail Highlights:** This trail is in the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area. This is an excellent all day or overnight hike with camping spots along the way. There are great views along the way.

**Trail Description:** The trail begins in the Columbia Gorge at Herman Creek Trail #406 and ends at Rainy Wahtum Trail #409 near Rainy Lake. Gorton Creek Trail is accessed by using the Herman Creek Trail up to Herman Camp. Herman Creek Trail starts at the west end of the Herman Creek Campground. Near the beginning of the trail, keep left at an unmarked fork. Follow the switchbacks across a power line access road, and then climb another 0.4 mile to a well-signed fork. Take the left fork. The path soon joins an old dirt road. Proceed uphill 0.6 miles to Herman Camp primitive campsite. Uphill a couple hundred yards past the Herman Camp is the beginning of this trail (#408). Leaving Herman Creek #406 (1,040') the trail climbs 3.3 miles and crosses Gray Creek (2,600'). After crossing the creek the trail continues up a steeper climb for 2.6 miles to the junction with Nick Eaton Trail #447 (3,920'). The trail leaves the junction and continues climbing south for 0.6 mile to the junction with Plateau Cutoff Trail #412 (4,280'). Stay on #408 and continue another 1.1 miles to the trails end at Rainy Wahtum Trail #409 (4,400'). To reach Rainy Lake, turn left (north) onto #409 and travel 1.2 miles.

### 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

Mt. Hood National Forest  
16400 Champion Way  
Sandy, OR 97055  
503-668-1700

Hood River Ranger District  
6780 Hwy 35  
Parkdale, Oregon 97041  
541-352-6002

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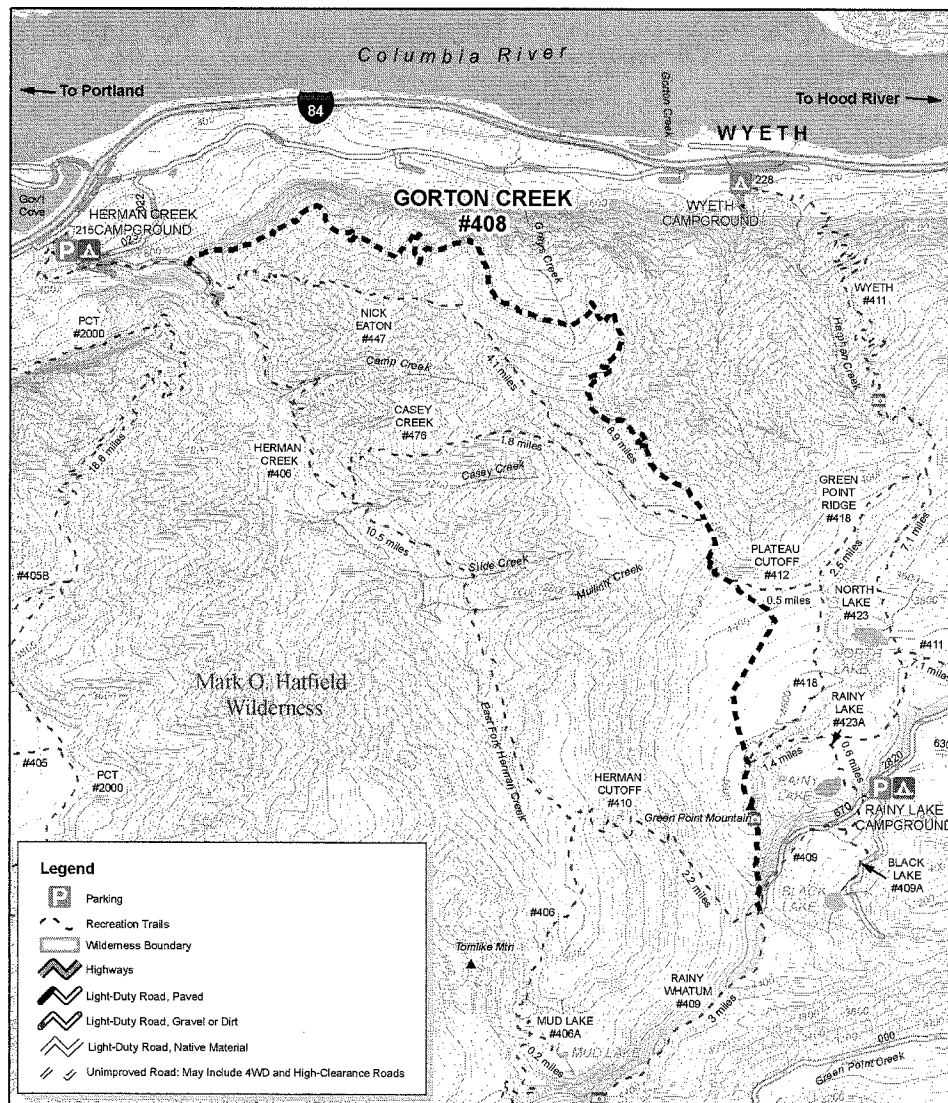
**Directions to Trailhead:** To the NORTH end of this trail traveling eastbound on I-84 take exit #44, Cascade Locks and travel to the east end of Cascade Locks, take a left on Forest Lane and head east for approximately two miles to the Herman Creek Work Center, enter there and follow signs to the campground. Westbound on I-84 take exit #47, Herman Creek, take left at end of ramp and travel west on Forest Lane Road approximately two miles to the Herman Creek Work Center, enter there and follow signs to the campground. From Hood River to the SOUTH end of the trail, travel south on OR Hwy 281 Dee Highway (it goes past the Hood River airport) approximately 11 miles to Dee. Take the right fork here and cross the East Fork of the Hood River. Turn right again and go 1.2 miles up Punchbowl Road until it crosses the West Fork of the Hood River. The road becomes Dead Point Road (Forest Road 2820) here. Follow Dead Point Road 11 miles until you get to Rainy Lake Campground and Trailhead. Take Rainy Wahtum Trail #409 southwest about 1.1 miles to get to the beginning of this trail.

408 Gorton Creek  
8.9 miles

14.4 km



0 1 Miles  
0 0.5 1 Kilometers



**Recommended maps:** Hood River Ranger District

