

Gray Butte Trail

WITHIN 30-MILE RADIUS OF BEND



EASY TO MODERATE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Gray Butte, a part of the Crooked River National Grasslands, dominates the skyline north of Smith Rock State Park. A trail leads to the Creson Viewpoint below the summit of the Butte where hikers enjoy exceptional views of the Cascades, Ochocos, and high desert. A bronze plaque memorializes Austin Creson, an Ochoco National Forest trail coordinator responsible for designing this trail. This is a good turn-around point for a short 3.8-mile hike.

For a longer, car-shuttle hike, leave a car at Smith Rock State Park. Park the second car at the trailhead and follow the hike to the viewpoint. From here, continue on the trail, cross Road 5720, hike along the Burma Road towards a steep trail down to the river. Stay right for about a mile, cross the footbridge, and climb up to the viewpoint and parking area at the park. This is about 8.5 miles from the starting point.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS: Views! Lots of wildflowers in the spring.

DIFFICULTY: Easy to moderate

DISTANCE:

To Creson Viewpoint: 3.8-mile round-trip

To Smith Rock State Park: About 8.5 miles one way

SEASON: Year-round; best in spring, fall, and winter

PERMITS: None for Creson Viewpoint hike; Oregon State Park Day-use Permit for Smith Rock car-shuttle hike

GENERAL LOCATION: Approx. 30 miles north of Bend

FINDING THE TRAILHEAD: From Bend, travel north on U.S. Hwy 97 through Redmond to Terrebonne. Turn east (right) on NE 1st and follow the signs to Smith Rock State Park. If not leaving a car in the park, continue about 3 miles past the park to Lone Pine Road. Turn left and drive about 3 miles to Road 5710 on the left. Watch closely for the sign for the Grasslands Campground and Gray Butte. To get to the trailhead, continue straight on 5710 (Skull Hollow Road) for about 2.5 miles; bear left on Road 57 to the parking area.

AND FURTHERMORE: This is a good hike for winter months when other trails are covered in snow. Be aware that parts of the trail are shared with mountain bikers and horses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ochoco National Forest: 541-416-6500

Crooked River National Grasslands: 541-475-9272

