



High Cascades Ranger District

The High Cascades Ranger District encompasses the northeastern portion of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, and includes iconic places like Sky Lakes Wilderness (home of Mt. McLoughlin), Fourmile Lake, the Upper Rogue River, and Fish Lake. The District office is located in Prospect.

Recreation

The District encompasses some of the most highly traveled roadside areas in southern Oregon, both because of its beauty and because it is a gateway to Crater Lake National Park. Natural Bridge, Union Creek, and the Rogue River Trail are just a few of the places that are beloved for their big trees, volcanic rocks, and ample water.

Climate

Southwestern Oregon summer weather is Mediterranean in feel, with warm, dry summer days and cool evenings. Precipitation increases during the fall and spring, with an average yearly rainfall of 35-60 inches. Snow is common on High Cascades Ranger District in the winter, and summers are cooler than in the Medford area, due to the higher elevation.

- [More information](#)

Communities

Southern Oregon offers good quality of life, with cultural and recreational opportunities, friendly people and mild climate.

Prospect (population 725)

Location: Approximately 45 miles north of Medford, along Highway 62.

Prospect is an historic logging town, serving as a gateway to Crater Lake and the Wild and Scenic Upper Rogue River. Known for abundant waterfalls like Mill Creek Falls and National Creek Falls, Natural Bridge, big trees, and outdoor recreation of all kinds, it's a hub for hiking, fishing, and winter sports, and features historic spots like the Prospect Hotel.

Prospect has local amenities that include a library, fire station, convenience store, and cafes.

- [More information](#)

Butte Falls (population 433)

Location: Approximately 32 miles north of Medford, and 25 miles southeast of Prospect.

Butte Falls offers a glimpse into an historic Oregon logging town, providing easy access to recreation opportunities on public lands.

Located on the densely forested Big Butte Plateau in the Cascade Range, the town's name comes from nearby Butte Falls, a ten-foot-high basalt ledge across Big Butte Creek.

Butte Falls is home to schools, a couple of restaurants, a gas

station, and a general store for essentials.

- [More information](#)

Medford (population 86,301)

Location: Approximately 277 miles south of Portland, OR, and 385 miles north of San Francisco, CA.

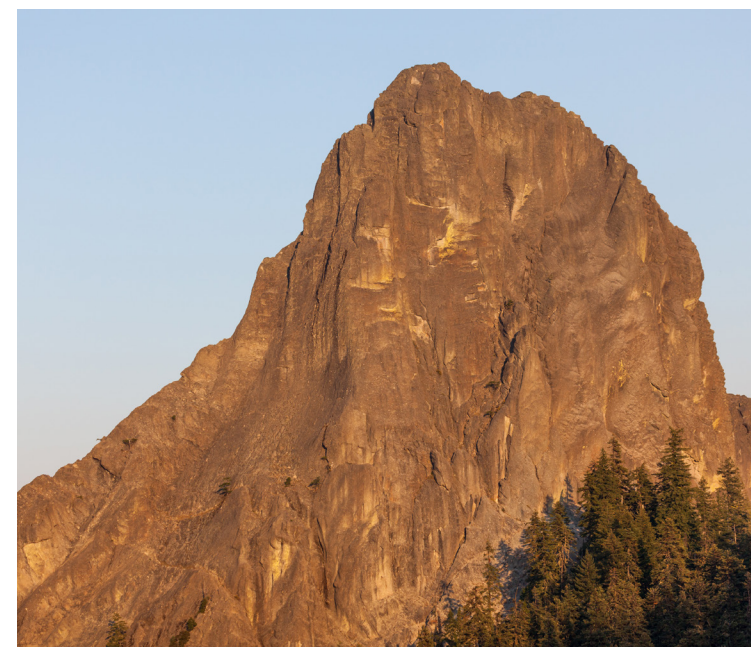
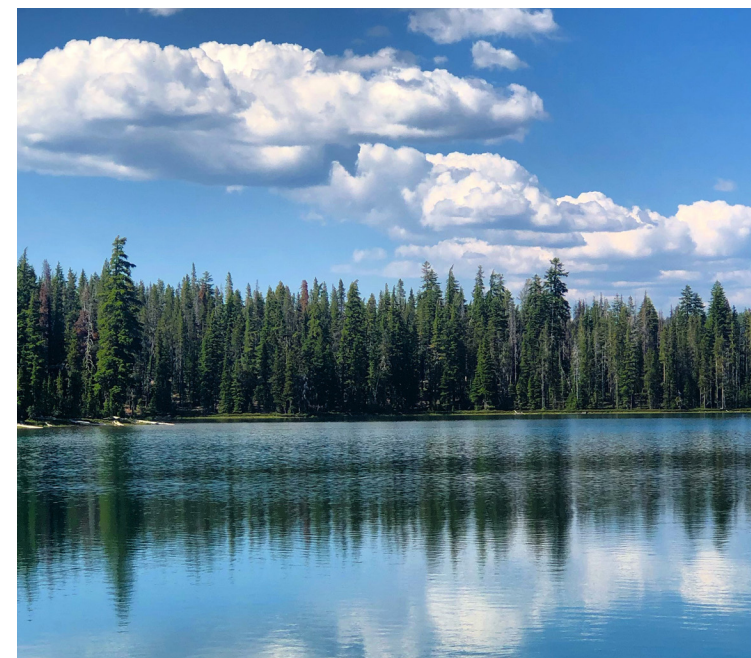
Medford is Jackson County's county seat, and is located along Interstate 5. Surrounding communities and towns include Ashland, Jacksonville, Central Point, Grants Pass, and further to the east, Klamath Falls. It is the industrial, medical, and service center for southern Oregon and northern California.

The [Rogue Valley International-Medford Airport](#) (MFR) serves the Rogue Valley, in addition to seven other counties. The airport provides connections to many of the major hubs in the western states, with daily flights to Portland, Seattle, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and Denver, among others.

[Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center](#) has repeatedly been included on the list of the top 100 Heart Care Hospitals in the United States, the only hospital on the west coast with that distinction.

Like so many of the communities in southern Oregon, Medford is home to multiple outdoor recreation opportunities, including [Prescott Park](#), [Table Rocks](#), and [county parks](#) like Touvelle Park. [Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve](#) is within two hours of driving.

- [More information](#)



Top: The Sky Lakes Wilderness Area has numerous high-elevation lakes that offer solitude and adventure. Forest Service photo by Chamise Kramer.

Middle: Rabbit Ears is a notable landmark that rises above the trees on the western side of High Cascades Ranger District. Stock photo.

Bottom: Flowers bloom for months on end at the higher elevations. Pictured here, paintbrush along Muir Creek. Forest Service photo by Chamise Kramer.