



## Gold Beach Ranger District

The coastal, western side of the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest embodies some of the most complex soils, geology, landscapes, and plant communities in the Pacific Northwest. World-class rivers, biological diversity, remarkable fisheries resources, and complex watersheds define this area. The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest is the most botanically diverse national forest in the country, including unique species like cobra lilies (*Darlingtonia californica*) and the northern-most coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*).

This area is unique in habitat for special status species that include Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, mardon skipper, and red tree voles. You'll also find species that are loved by hunters and fishermen, including black-tailed deer, elk, and steelhead.

### Recreation

The Gold Beach Ranger District offers diverse and amazing, year-round recreation, including Wild and Scenic Rivers like the Lower Rogue River and Chetco River, hundreds of miles of hiking and backpacking trails, mountain, road, and gravel biking, federally-designated wilderness areas, and a range of camping opportunities from highly-developed campgrounds to places deep in wilderness.

### Climate

The climate is typical of southwestern Oregon: mild, wet winters and warm, dry summers. Rainfall averages 63 inches per year from October to June. Winters are cool and wet, and snow is common in the mountains. Average annual rainfall is 80 inches. This area is often referred to as "the sunniest place on the Oregon Coast."

- [More information](#)

### Communities

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

#### Gold Beach (population 2,272)

*Location: Approximately 45 miles north of the California border, along Highway 101.*

Located on the Wild Rivers Coast of southern Oregon, Gold Beach is situated in Curry County at the mouth of the Rogue River.

The community was originally named Ellensburg in the 1850s, but later took the name Gold Beach after a beach near the mouth of the Rogue River where hundreds of placer mines extracted gold.

Mail boats based in Gold Beach have been delivering mail upstream to Agness since 1895, one of only two rural mail boat routes remaining in the U.S.

The Wild and Scenic Lower Rogue River provides some of the best salmon fishing and whitewater rafting and kayaking opportunities in the Pacific Northwest. Other popular recreational activities include beach combing, surfing, kite boarding, and windsurfing.

The communities in this area are served by Curry General Hospital, known for its staff, and part of the [Curry Health Network](#).

- [More information](#)

#### Port Orford (population 1,114)

*Location: 35 miles north of Gold Beach along Highway 101.*

Port Orford is the oldest town on the Oregon Coast and the most westerly in the contiguous United States. Steeped in history and natural wonders, this is a quintessential coast town.

Anchored by its active harbor, Port Orford sees its fishing fleet of 30 boats lowered into the water by crane every morning. Water activities are a popular pastime here, with surfing, windsurfing, boating, or sea kayaking as options. Scuba diving nearby coves and shipwrecks is also popular, in waters offering high visibility. The town is artsy and eclectic, boasting art galleries, shops, and restaurants with views. The [Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeway](#) begins in Port Orford, with a 61 mile-long route of that travels the coast and the Elk River.

Port Orford is served by [Adapt Integrated Health Care](#), and the hospital to the south in Gold Beach.

- [More information](#)

#### Brookings (population 6,493)

*Location: Just across the Oregon/California state border in Oregon, along Highway 101, and approximately 40 miles south of Gold Beach.*

Brookings is a scenic city on the southern Oregon coast known for its mild climate, stunning coastline, abundant outdoor recreation like hiking, fishing, and beach combing, and its designation as an "Azalea City." It's a popular stop on Highway 101, offering access to the rugged [Samuel H. Boardman State Scenic Corridor](#) and the mouths of the Chetco and Winchuck Rivers for boating and fishing.

The small city offers a mild climate, small-town coastal charm with a vibrant downtown and friendly locals, attracting those seeking outdoor access and a tight-knit community, though it's a smaller city with fewer big-city amenities, blending visitor appeal with full-time residency for nature lovers and retirees.

Brookings is served by [Curry Medical Center](#), as well as an array of other medical providers of all sorts.

- [More information](#)

*Top: The Wild Rivers Coast Scenic Bikeway is growing in popularity, and is a great way to experience the beauty of the Oregon coast.*

*Middle: Fishing. It's a big deal on the Lower Rogue River. Forest Service photo by Ben Watt*

*Bottom: The Gold Beach Ranger District is home to the northernmost population of Redwoods, with a trail traveling through them. Stock photo.*

