



## Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District

Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District's Star Ranger Station is located 14 miles south of Jacksonville near Ruch, Oregon, in the Applegate Valley of the Siskiyou Mountains. The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District is bordered by the Klamath National Forest to the south and the Wild Rivers Ranger District to the west. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Medford District manages lands that neighbor the district in many places. Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District extends into California at its southern end, and nearly reaches Interstate 5 to the east.

The district's 260,000 acres (53,800 acres of which are in California) offer a botanical and geologic diversity that is unique among National Forests.

### Recreation

The Siskiyou Mountains Ranger District is known for its recreational opportunities with multiple trail systems offering hiking, mountain, gravel and road biking, off highway vehicle use, backpacking, and horseback riding. The district is home to the Red Buttes Wilderness, the [Ashland Watershed](#), Mt. Ashland Ski Area, Applegate Reservoir, the Applegate River, Acorn Woman Lake, and many other small lakes.

The district also has many picnic areas, day use and dispersed camping, hiking, fishing, RV camping, big game and game bird hunting, scenic drives, and plenty of roadless open space.

### 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. Winter temperatures fluctuate widely, but tend to be relatively temperate, between 45 and 60 degrees. It does snow in the higher elevations, and the valley floor typically gets snow once or twice in the winter, rarely lasting more than a day or two.

- [More information](#)

### Communities

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

#### Jacksonville (population 2,945)

*Location: Approximately five miles west of Medford and 20 miles north of Ashland, in the southern part of the state.*

A historical showcase, the Gold Rush town of Jacksonville has been designated as a National Historic Landmark Community. Located in the foothills of the Siskiyou Mountains, this old west town has more than 90 original brick and wooden buildings that date back to the 1850s. It has a robust downtown that provides various dining opportunities and multiple locally-owned shops. In the summer, Jacksonville is home to the [Britt Festival](#), a music and arts festival that runs nearly half the year and welcomes musical performers of all genres. Miles of trails are accessible directly from town, both at the [Jacksonville Woodlands](#) and [Forest Park](#)

- [More information](#)

#### Ashland (population 20,935)

*Location: Approximately 11 miles south of Medford and 16 miles north of the California border, in the southern part of the state.*

Repeatedly named as one of Oregon's premier outdoor recreation towns and arts hubs, Ashland is home to the [Oregon Shakespeare Festival](#), [Mt. Ashland Ski Area](#), [Southern Oregon University](#), and is the only place where the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest interfaces directly with the city limits of a community. More than 45 miles of multi-use, non-motorized trails begin above Lithia Park, and travel all the way to the top of the watershed and Mt. Ashland Ski Area.

- [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.

Health care is the number one job producing sector in the Medford area, with two major medical centers and a wide range of clinics and specialists. [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. [Crater Lake National Park](#) and [Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve](#) are within two hours of driving.

- [More information](#)

*Top: A rider ascends the Mt. Ashland Access road during the Mt. Ashland Hill Climb. Photo courtesy of Kevin Jantzer.*

*Middle: Columbines join the abundant wildflowers found on Mt. Ashland in mid-summer. Forest Service photo by Chamise Kramer.*

*Bottom: The Siskiyou Crest ranges from conifer forests at lower elevations, giving way to oak woodlands and wide open meadows at higher elevations. Forest Service photo by Chamise Kramer.*

