

*The*  
**Chinook Trail**



Official Hiking & Backpacking Guide  
Yacolt Burn State Forest & Silver Star Scenic Area



## Introduction

The concept of the Chinook Trail originated in 1986 with two lifelong hiking companions, Don Cannard and Ed Robertson, who were retired educators and elementary school principals in the Vancouver School District. Standing on the summit of Silver Star, a 4,390 foot peak noted for its glorious wildflower displays, they dreamed of a trail going through the Columbia River Gorge. Originally, the trail was only going to go through Washington, but then the Forest Service suggested a bi-state loop going through Oregon and Washington. Others agreed enthusiastically, and in 1988, the Chinook Trail Association was chartered.

The original concept developed into that of a 300-mile rim top loop trail which would encircle the Columbia River Gorge. An additional 200 miles would be designated connector trails which would junction with existing trails such as the Pacific Crest Trail and communities in the Columbia River Gorge area. The first section of new trail, the Kloochman Butte connector which connects Silver Star to Washington's Larch Mountain, began on National Trails Day in 1993 and completed a year later.

The Chinook Trail honors the name of the Native Americans living for thousands of years along the Columbia River.

In 2005, the first 29 miles of the Chinook Trail through the Yacolt Burn State Forest and Silver Star Scenic Area was designated as a National Recreation Trail.

The first thru-hike of the un-official Chinook Trail was accomplished by Whitney "Allgood" LaRuffa, Brian "Tomato" Boshart, and Liz "Snorkel" Thomas in the summer of 2005. The three completed a 300-mile horseshoe traverse of Columbia River Gorge in Washington and Oregon, proving to the backpacking community that the route is more than possible to complete, and well worth the trek!

Completion of the entire envisioned Chinook Trail (CT) will come only with an enormous amount of cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies, and private ownership. The non-profit Chinook Trail Association (CTA) invites you to join in our mission, vision, and values for the future.

*This first edition of the Chinook Trail guide will educate hikers and backpackers on first 29 miles of the Chinook Trail. As the official trail grows, so will this guide.*

## The Chinook Trail Association

*The CTA was chartered in 1988 and continues to build and map trails, maintain the trail system, and advocate for and promote the CT. Board members seek to improve and expand the trail in hopes of one day having an official long- distance trail that expands throughout the Columbia River Gorge.*

### **Mission**

Enhance the Columbia River Gorge by creating a backcountry route that connects communities with the natural beauty of the region.

### **Vision**

Protect and expand the Chinook National Recreation Trail to complete a bi-state scenic loop in the Columbia River Gorge.

### **Values**

Accessibility – We believe nature is an inclusive space for all who seek its lessons and benefits. The Chinook Trail has much to offer and is open to anyone who wishes to share in its gifts.

Stewardship – We promote a culture of stewardship that results in the protection of the Columbia River Gorge natural environment.

Economic Opportunity – The Chinook Trail Association believes every Gorge community should have an opportunity for economic growth. To that end the Chinook Trail Association strives to have a positive impact on the livelihood and earning potential of every town within its reach.

Collaboration – We will partner with outdoor organizations, government agencies, and private landowners to promote, protect and enhance the Chinook Trail.



*Chinook Trail, Bluff Mountain Trail section*

# ***Chinook Trail***

**National Recreation Trail  
-Planning & Preparation-**



## **Trail Guide Users**

This guide is meant for day hikers and backpackers. For the purpose of this guide, *hikers* are described as single day users, whereas *backpackers* are described as users who are planning on tent camping during a multi-day trek.

## **Seasonality**

The Yacolt Burn State Forest and Silver Star Scenic Area are open year-round to recreational users. However, the Chinook Trail reaches to elevations of 4,000+ feet in elevation. Chinook Trail users should be aware of snow accumulation during the winter months: November- April. These months are not ideal for backpacking. Sectional hikers of the Chinook Trail can hike year-round in elevations below current snow levels. It is advised to check snow levels prior to day trips. The CTA suggests that backpackers trek between late spring to early summer, to avoid snow accumulation. Late summer may bring challenges to obtain water on the trail from seasonal runoffs. Each year is obviously different. Trail users should do their own research during trip planning to decide on their own if trail conditions are safe.

## **Food**

Bring enough high energy food to last you the amount of days in the wilderness, plus an additional day in case of emergency.

## **Water**

The likelihood of water sources on the trail is plentiful in some places, yet scarce in others. Prepare accordingly. CTA recommends filling your water bottles as often as you can. There are places along the trail that this guide will suggest filling up, however seasons/ years vary depending on weather patterns. Seasonal water sources may not provide water later in the summer. The CTA also suggests purifying all water sources along the trail.

## **Clothing**

Be prepared for all weather systems by practicing a layered clothing approach. It's wise to always have a base layer such as long- underwear, a middle layer to insulate and protect against the cold, and an outer layer that shield you from the rain and wind. In any case, you have the ability to layer down and layer up depending on the current weather. In the Cascades, it is common to have hot summer days, followed by cold nights. Be prepared for all weather. Fast drying clothing is the best option in the Pacific Northwest.

## **Safety**

Always carry the ten essentials with you when in the outdoors. An updated paper map is highly recommended, even when familiar with the area you are going. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect you to return.

Be aware of wildlife when in the outdoors. Apex predators such as cougar and black bear reside in the Cascades. It's important to take precautions with your food. Cooking away from your campsite and protecting your food at night will decrease any risk from wildlife.

CTA suggests hiking and backpacking in groups of two or more.

Hiking and backpacking is a rewarding experience, however it can also be dangerous. Like the old scout motto: *Be Prepared*.

## **Fire Safety**

Wildfire is increasingly becoming a danger in the western United States due to various reasons. The CTA suggests only having campfires in designated campground fire rings at Cold Creek Campground and Rock Creek Campground, when permitted. When out in the wilderness, refrain from building campfires even if a pit already exists where you are camping. Always check for fire dangers to determine whether or not it is safe to have a campfire.

## **Trail Markers**

Along the Chinook Trail, hikers and backpackers should expect to see reassurance markers placed where necessary. The classic rounded triangle markers are placed in areas that may be confusing to trails users, to reassure trail users that they are headed in the correct direction. The Yacolt Burn/ Silver Star area has an array of trails along the way. Be warned, that it is best not to rely solely on these markers for trail directions. The CTA highly suggests that you bring a printed map of the area you will be hiking/ backpacking, as well as doing your own research prior to leaving.

## Maps

There are various agency specific maps to use for the Chinook Trail: Clark County Moulton Falls Park map. The Washington Department of Natural Resources Yacolt Burn State Non-Motorized Trails Map. US Forest Service Silver Star Trails map. It's also best to bring this guide along to navigate the route.

## Permits

The only permits required are for driving and parking. A Washington State Discover Pass is required in the Yacolt Burn State Forest. A Northwest Forest Pass is required when traveling the Gifford Pinchot National Forest roads. Permits are not needed for hiking or overnight backpacking trips at this time. Stay up to date with permitting as it changes from time to time.

## The Ten-Essentials of Wilderness Preparedness

1. Navigation: paper map, compass, GPS system (optional)
2. Sun Protection: sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, protective clothing
3. Insulation: jacket, hat, rain shell
4. Illumination: flashlight, headlamp
5. First Aid Kit
6. Fire: matches, lighter, and fire-starter
7. Multi-Tool Knife
8. Nutrition: have enough food for your energy output + number of days you'll be in the wilderness + an additional day
9. Hydration: have enough water to sustain yourself for multiple days, as well as a water treatment kit
10. Emergency Shelter: tent, space blanket, tarp



### **Other important items:**

- Proper footwear
- Comfortable day-pack or multi-day pack
- Multiple water bottles
- Toilet paper + trowel
- Lightweight tent (backpacking only)
- Sleeping bag and sleeping pad (backpacking only)
- Stove and fuel (backpacking only)
- Kitchen supplies: cook-set, bowls, mug (backpacking only)
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Small Repair kit
- Trekking Poles (optional)
- Bear canister/ food sack for safe overnight food storage (backpacking only)
- Menstrual products
- Hygiene kits: Toothbrush/ paste, glasses, medications, hand sanitizer
- Insect repellent
- Permits, if required
- Cell phone
- Cash/ ID

*Note: It is your responsibility to prepare accordingly prior to your outing. Some may bring more, and others may bring less. This is only a recommended list.*

## **Outdoor Ethics & Leave No Trace Principles**

The Chinook Trail Association believes in following the 7 *Leave No Trace* Principles when outdoors. Following these principles allows future trail users to enjoy the same experience that you have.

1. Plan ahead and prepare: Know where you are going and where you plan on camping.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces: Always use the designated trail and camp in designated areas. If you must camp elsewhere, leave it better than you found it.
3. Dispose of waste properly: Dispose of food and human waste 200 feet away from water sources to avoid contamination. Bury human waste 8 inches underground.

4. Leave what you find: Resist picking plants, keeping rocks and culture findings. Let others enjoy them as well.
5. Minimize campfire impacts: Always have campfires in designated areas or not at all.
6. Respect wildlife: Observe wildlife from a distance and do not approach.
7. Be considerate of other visitors: Camp far enough away from other campers when able and avoid talking too loudly.

## **The Yacolt Burn State Forest**

The Yacolt Burn State Forest's 90,000 acres is a working forest managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Within the forest, timber production is frequently occurring. Many roads may be closed to the public for timber harvesting periods.

The area is also widely used for recreation purposes including camping, hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, horseback riding, off-road vehicles, and target shooting.

The forest's name comes from the wildfires of September 1902 which spread across 239,000 acres and took 38 lives. The fire was human caused during a long period of hot and dry weather that summer. The large burned stumps of ancient trees can still be seen along the CT. A valuable reminder to be fire safe.

## **Native American History & Culture**

The Chinook people, for which the Trail is named, includes several groups of Native American people that lived and continue to live along the lower and middle Columbia River in modern day Oregon and Washington State. The Chinook were and are highly skilled hunters and salmon fishermen. The Columbia River Gorge played a vital role in their culture, providing trade routes, transportation, hunting grounds, gathering grounds, and protection. The Trail is named after the Chinookan people to honor their history, culture, and ancestors who have lived on these lands before us.

# ***Chinook Trail***

**National Recreation Trail**

**-Trail Information-**



## Chinook Trail - Route Summary

- Start:** Hantwick Road Trailhead
- Section 1:** Moulton Falls Trail: 2.1 miles
- Section 2:** Bells Mountain Trail: 8.4 miles
- Section 3:** Tarbell Trail: 8.6 miles
- Section 4:** Chinook Trail: 2.3 miles
- Section 5:** Silver Star Trail: 0.9 mile
- Section 5a:** Silver Star Mountain Summit- optional 1 mile roundtrip
- Section 6:** Bluff Mountain Trail: 4 miles
- Section 7:** NF Road 502 to NF Road 41: 2.2 miles
- End:** NF Road 41 Junction

## Trailhead information

**The Chinook Trail begins at Hantwick Road Trailhead**

**29601 NE Hantwick Rd, Battle Ground, WA 98604**

- Latitude: 45.83785 | Longitude: -122.433557

**Direction:** From I-205 or I-5, take the exit for State Route 500. Drive east on 500 until you reach NE Fourth Plain Road in Orchards. At the Fourth Plain Road intersection, continue north on NE 117th Avenue/State Route 503.

Follow State Route 503 north through Brush Prairie and Battle Ground. Turn right (east) onto Rock Creek Road. Rock Creek Road will turn into Lucia Falls Road. Just after the Lucia Fall Regional Park, take a right on to NE Hantwick Road. You'll cross the river and shortly after see the trailhead parking lot on your left.

Overnight Parking is prohibited, please plan on being dropped off at the trailhead. Parking is free for day use.

## Section 1: Moulton Falls Trail

### Distance

- 2.1 miles: Hantwick Road Trailhead to the Bells Mountain Trail junction

### Day Hike Access

- Hantwick Road Trailhead

### Trail Summary

- This is the first leg of the Chinook Trail. From the parking area, follow the paved path leading East. The path follows the East Fork of the Lewis River upstream toward Moulton Falls Regional Park. The trail eventually turns to a gravel path. In about 2.1 miles from the Hantwick Road Trailhead, you'll see the junction of the Bells Mountain Trail. Take this right, heading southbound.

### Miles & Directions

- **0.0**      **Hantwick Road Trailhead**
  - Latitude: 45.83785 | Longitude: -122.433557
- **2.1**      **Bells Mountain Trail**
  - Latitude: 45.832524 | Longitude: -122.394366

### Elevation Range:

- 479 ft – 542 ft

### Points of Interest

- This section of trail provides gorgeous views of the East Fork of the Lewis River while meandering through a lush forest. Half a mile beyond the junction with Bells Mountain Trail is Moulton Falls Regional Park. An arching walking bridge over the river is well worth a side trip. Continue further to get better views of Moulton Falls. Return the same way to the Bells Mountain Trail junction.

### Water

- If water is needed, there are several streams along the trail. It is recommended to fill water prior to getting on the trail.

## Camping

- There are no camping areas on this section of trail, continue on.

## Section 2: Bells Mountain Trail

### Distance

8.4 miles: Bells Mountain Trail to Yacolt Burn Trailhead

### Day Hike Access

Hikers may access the Bells Mountain Trail via Moulton Fall Regional Park, as well as the Cold Creek Campground.

### Trail Summary

- The Bells Mountain Trail begins at the junction of the Moulton Falls Trail. A large sign clearly points the way. On the face of the large boulder at the trail junction you'll see a Chinook Trail logo carved into it. The trail begins with a steady uphill climb through dense forest. You'll notice large burnt stumps along the way, remnants of the Yacolt Burn of 1902. Within a mile you'll find yourself in clear-cut patches of forest. The Yacolt Burn State Forest is a working forest for timber harvests. There are a few logging road crossings—make sure to look for trail signs nearby; you should not be off trail for too long. The next five miles are mostly hiking through various ages of clear-cuts, though you will find great views of the surrounding foothills. About 6 miles in, the trail begins paralleling Cedar Creek. The next mile includes a pleasant hike along the creek before crossing the small foot bridge over Cedar Creek. After the bridge you'll come to a trail junction. Take the left fork to head to the Cold Creek Campground. This is a good place to camp for the night if you're doing a three-day backpacking trip. Take the trail to the right to continue on the Bells Mountain Trail for 1.2 miles, toward the Yacolt Burn Trailhead. You'll soon come to road L-1000. Across the road is the Yacolt Burn Trailhead. This is the end of the Bells Mountain Trail, and the start of the Tarbell Trail section of the CT.

### Miles & Directions

- **0.0**      **Moulton Falls Trail & Bells Mountain Trail Junction**
  - Latitude: 45.832524 | Longitude: -122.394366
- **1.3**      **Sword Fern Way (loop) north junction (unsigned in 2023)**
  - Latitude: 45.82035 | Longitude: -122.38611

- **2.2**      **Sword Fern Way (loop) south junction**
  - Latitude: 45.81002 | Longitude: -122.37801
  
- **7.2**      **Cold Creek Campground junction**
  - Latitude: 45.75915 | Longitude: -122.339456
  
- **8.4**      **Yacolt Burn Trailhead**
  - Latitude: 45.751561 | Longitude: -122.327225

**Elevation Range:**

- 515 ft – 1,645 ft

**Points of Interest**

- Large burnt stumps from the 1902 Yacolt Burn along the trail. Dense forests. Creeks.

**Water**

- Various stream/ creek crossings along the trail. Cedar Creek runs year-round.

**Camping**

- Cold Creek Campground for backpackers doing a three day trip, about 9 miles from beginning of the Chinook trail.
  - Reservations: first come, first served. Closed in winter.
  - L-1300, Yacolt, WA 98675
    - Driving directions: On I-5 south take I-205 and exit 32 Padden Parkway. Turn left at the light. Stay straight for NE Ward Road, continue straight. Turn right on 139 Street. Turn left on L-1050. Go straight until you reach the Yacolt Burn Trailhead on your right.

## Section 3: Tarbell Trail

### Distance

- 8.6 miles: Yacolt Burn Trailhead to Chinook Trail #180b junction

### Day Hike Access

- Yacolt Burn Trailhead
  - L-1100, Yacolt, WA 98675

### Trail Summary

- It's worth noting that the Tarbell Trail is a longer, extended trail loop in the Yacolt Burn area. The following summary is for the Chinook Trail section of the Tarbell Trail. Be mindful of trail and road junctions.

From the Yacolt Burn Trailhead continue north on the Tarbell Trail. In 1.7 miles you'll come to the Rock Creek Campground. This is also a good place to camp along the trail. The trail continues north through various stages of clear cut patches. You'll cross several logging roads and streams. Be trail wise and never stray too far from the single track hiking trail. The Tarbell Trail is well marked. Eventually the trail begins heading southbound. Around mile 8.6, you'll come to the junction of Chinook Trail #180b. This is the end of the Tarbell Trail section of the CT.

### Miles & Directions

- **0.0**      **Yacolt Burn Trailhead**
  - Latitude: 45.751561 | Longitude: -122.327225
- **0.1**      **Sixth Sense Trail junction**
  - Latitude: 45.75201 | Longitude: -122.32603



- **1.7 Rock Creek Campground**
  - Latitude: 45.764301 | Longitude: -122.325112
- **2.1 Appaloosa Trail junction**
  - Latitude: 45.76510 | Longitude: - 122.32083
- **3.6 Silver Shadow Trail junction (loop) west junction**
  - Latitude: 45.77440 | Longitude: -122.30700
- **5.4 Tarbell Trailhead Parking Trail junction**
  - Latitude: 45.79161 | Longitude: -122.29910
- **6.4 Silver Shadow Trail junction (loop) east junction**
  - Latitude: 45.78051 | Longitude: -122.29325
- **8.6 Chinook Trail #180b junction**
  - Latitude: 45.76745 | Longitude: -122.265099

**Elevation Range:**

- 1,312 ft- 2460 ft

**Water**

- Rock Creek Campground and seasonal stream crossings.
- Tarbell Trailhead Parking area has a hand pump. Filter your water.

**Camping**

- Rock Creek Campground: first come, first served.
  - NE Dole Valley Rd, Yacolt, WA 98675

## Section 4: Chinook Trail #180b

**Distance**

- 2.3 miles: Tarbell Trail junction to Silver Star Trail #180 junction, via Chinook Trail #180b

**Day Hike Access**

- Via Tarbell Trail & Silver Star Trail

**Trail Summary**

- This trail is known by locals as the Kloochman Butte Trail. It begins at the junction with the Tarbell Trail and climbs a gentle ridge toward Silver Star Mountain through a forest of Douglas Firs and rocky meadows. Various wildflowers appear in the spring.

**Miles & Directions**

- **0.0 Tarbell Trail junction**
  - Latitude: 45.76745 | Longitude: -122.265099
- **0.7 Enter Gifford Pinchot National Forest**
- **2.3 Silver Star Trail junction**
  - Latitude: 45.762194 | Longitude: -122.245915

**Elevation Range:**

- 2,395 ft -3,742 ft

**Points of Interest**

- 1.6 miles from the Tarbell Trail, the forest opens up into a large meadow which offers great views. In spring you'll find various wildflowers in bloom.

**Water**

- There is no water on this section of trail.

**Camping**

- Dispersed camping is allowed in the National Forest. There is a camping area without water just off the trail at 1.7 mile, N 45.763340, W -122.249797.

## **Section 5: Silver Star Trail #180**

**Distance**

- 0.9 miles: Chinook Trail #180b junction to Bluff Mountain Trail #172 Junction, via Silver Star Trail #180

**Day Hike Access**

- Silver Star Trailhead

**Trail Summary**

- This short section of the Chinook Trail follows an open ridgeline before crossing into a forested area that leads to the junction of the Bluff Mountain Trail. Further on the trail heads up to the Silver Star Summit. This area is a pleasant place to camp for your second night if backpacking a three day trip.

### **Miles & Directions**

- **0.0 Chinook Trail #180b and Silver Star Trail 180 junction**
  - Latitude: 45.762194 | Longitude: -122.245915
- **0.9 Bluff Mountain Trail #172 junction**
  - Latitude: 45.748362 | Longitude: -122.242189

### **Elevation Range:**

- 3,772 ft - 4,100 ft

### **Points of Interest**

- Access to various sights/trails including Indian Pits #180E, Silver Star Summit #180D, and Sturgeon Rock #180C.

### **Water**

- Horse Trough
  - Latitude: 45.746835 | Longitude: -122.242423
  - From the junction of Bluff Mountain Trail and Silver Star #180, continue south for 0.2 miles on Silver Star Trail. You'll come to a large junction with the Indian Pits Trail #180E on your left (west) and Sturgeon Rock Trail #180C on your right (east). Take this right on Sturgeon Rock Trail due East. 30 feet down this trail you'll see an unmarked side trail on your right (north). Take this side trail that will lead you to a Horse Trough. Filter your water.

### **Camping**

- Multi-tent site for camping 0.25 miles up the Silver Star Summit Trail.
- Small tent site near the Horse Trough.

## **Section 5a: Silver Star Summit #180D (optional)**

### **Distance**

- 1 mile: out and back, Silver Star Mountain summit and back to Bluff Mountain Trail and Silver Star Trail #180 Junction

### **Day Hike Access**

- Silver Star Trailhead

### **Trail Summary**

- This short trail is well worth your time along the Chinook Trail. It was on this peak that co-founders of the Chinook Trail came up with the idea of creating and planning

this trail. If you have the time, this is a must. A half mile trail starts off in a dense forest before giving way to a rocky peak. Silver Star Mountain is an extinct volcano that stands at 4,364 ft in elevation. From the summit, trail users can see views of Mt. Rainier, Adams, Hood, and Jefferson. On clear days, the Pacific Ocean can be seen to the West. Head back down the trail to meet up with the Bluff Mountain Trail once again.

### **Miles & Directions**

- **0.0**      **Silver Star Trail #180 and Bluff Mountain Trail #172 junction**
  - Latitude: 45.748362 | Longitude: -122.242189
- **0.1**      **Silver Star Summit Trail #180D**
  - Latitude: 45.748307 | Longitude: -122.240829
- **0.4**      **Silver Star Mountain Summit**
  - Latitude: 45.747742 | Longitude: -122.239086
- **0.8**      **Silver Star Trail #180D and Bluff Mountain Trail #172 Junction**
- **1.0**      **Silver Star Trail #180 and Bluff Mountain Trail #172 junction**

### **Elevation Range:**

- 4,100 ft- 4,364 ft

### **Points of Interest**

- Summit Peak with 360 degrees views of the Cascade Mountain range.

### **Water**

- There is no water on this section of trail.

### **Camping**

- Multi-tent site for camping 0.25 miles up the Silver Star Summit Trail.

## **Section 6: Bluff Mountain Trail #172**

### **Distance**

- 4 miles: Bluff Mountain Trail #172 and Silver Star Trail #180 junction to NF Road 502.

### **Day Hike Access**

- Bluff Mountain Trailhead, via NF Road 41

### **Trail Summary**

- The Bluff Mountain Trail is quite possibly the most beautiful trail on the Washington side of the Chinook Trail route. After leaving the Silver Star Trail junction, the Bluff Mountain Trail follows a high ridgeline for a mile or so before dissecting Little Baldy,

a rocky, pyramid shaped peak. The trail then goes through a dense forest before dropping down below a steep cliff face. The trail continues through pockets of young forest and meets up with the junction of NF Road 502, the last leg of the Chinook Trail. After 4 miles on the Bluff Mountain Trail, it widens from a single track trail into a dirt road. Be advised that NF Road 502 may be unmarked, but it should be obvious.

### **Miles & Directions**

- **0.0 Silver Star Trail #180 and Bluff Mountain Trail #172 junction**
  - Latitude: 45.748362 | Longitude: -122.242189
- **4.0 NF Road 502 Junction**
  - Latitude: 45.754761 | Longitude: -122.18438

### **Elevation Range**

- 3,650 ft – 4,100 ft

### **Points of Interest**

- The trail follows a high ridge top providing great views of the surrounding area. The trail passes under Little Baldy, a stunning rocky peak.

### **Water**

- Seasonal run-offs occur in early spring. However, no year-round water available. Attempt to fill up on the Tarbell or Silver Star trails.

### **Camping**

- There are no campsites available along the trail.

## **Section 7: NF Road 502 to NF Road 41**

### **Distance**

- 2 miles: NF Road 502 and Bluff Mountain Trail #172 junction to NF Road 41

### **Day Hike Access**

- Bluff Mountain Trailhead

### **Trail Summary**

- National Forest Road 502 is an overgrown dirt road that follows a ridgeline. The road goes in and out of re-forested areas. There are several logging roads along the way.

Continue on the main dirt road. This 2 mile dirt road leads to the end of the Chinook Trail, National Recreation Trail, at the junction with NF Road 41. This junction is quite obvious: a large, open dirt pull off. This is the end of the trail.

### **Miles & Directions**

- **0.0 Bluff Mountain Trail Junction**
  - Latitude: 45.754761 | Longitude: -122.18438
- **2.0 NF Road 41**
  - 45.780032 | Longitude: -122.166932

### **Elevation Range**

- 3,500 ft - 3,650 ft

### **Points of Interest**

- Ridgeline views

### **Water**

- There is no water on this section of trail.
- A small spring flows on the east side of Forest Road 41 0.3 mile north of the Bluff Mountain Trailhead at Latitude: 45.78413 | Longitude: -122.16552°. Some years there is a trickle even during dry months.
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### **Camping**

- Several spots along the ridgeline offer dispersed camping without a water source nearby.
- Tarbell Trailhead, NF Road 41 junction is a large area that you may camp at. Be cautious of vehicles coming through.

## **End of the Chinook Trail (NRT): Road 41, Bluff Mountain Trailhead**

### **Directions:**

Latitude: 45.780032 | Longitude: -122.166932



From Vancouver WA, take Highway 503 north to Battleground. Continue north on 503 (NE Lewisville Hwy) for 5.6 miles. Turn right (east) onto NE 152 Ave./Rock Creek Rd. Continue as the road curves south then east and becomes Lucia Falls Rd. After 8.6 miles, turn right on Sunset Falls Rd. Go 7.3 miles on Sunset Falls Rd to Sunset Campground. Turn right and cross the East Fork Lewis River on NF Road 41. Stay on NF 41 for approximately 9 miles to a large parking area atop McKinley Ridge.

The best approach to transportation is to be picked up at this location. The CTA does not recommend parking a vehicle here due to potential vandalism or theft. Do so at your own risk. If someone is picking you up, plan to bring them up the weekend before to show them how to get the Bluff Mountain Trailhead to avoid confusion and miscommunications.

*Note: The unofficial trail continues east on NF Road 41. If you are interested in the unofficial Chinook Trail route, please contact the Chinook Trail Association.*

*This copy of The Official Chinook Trail Guide may be not be up to date. Please check in with the CTA to confirm the official trail.*

# *Chinook Trail*

**National Recreation Trail**

**-Agency Maps-**



# Bells Mountain Trail Tarbell Trail

Trail Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

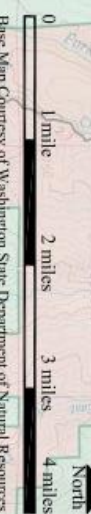
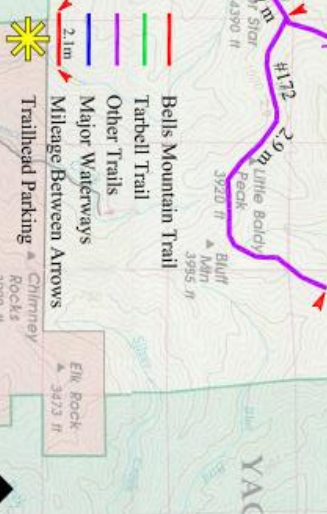
The Bells Mountain Trail is a 7.7 mile primitive, shared-use trail that serves hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. It may be accessed from Moulton Falls Regional Park or from Rock Creek Campground which is operated by the Department of Natural Resources. The Bells Mtn. trail is a low elevation trail and only reaches 1,500 foot elevation near the north end. The trail goes through fir and alder forests with glimpses of Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams. The trail follows Cedar Creek for much of the way, sometimes at creek level and occasionally at the edge of a valley above the creek.

The Tarbell Trail is a 24.75 mile primitive, shared-use loop trail that provides scenic beauty and access to Squaw Butte, Sturgeon Rock and Larch Mtn. The Tarbell Trail connects to many other local trails providing additional access to Silver Star, Pyramid Rock, Bluff Mountain and other prominent landmarks.

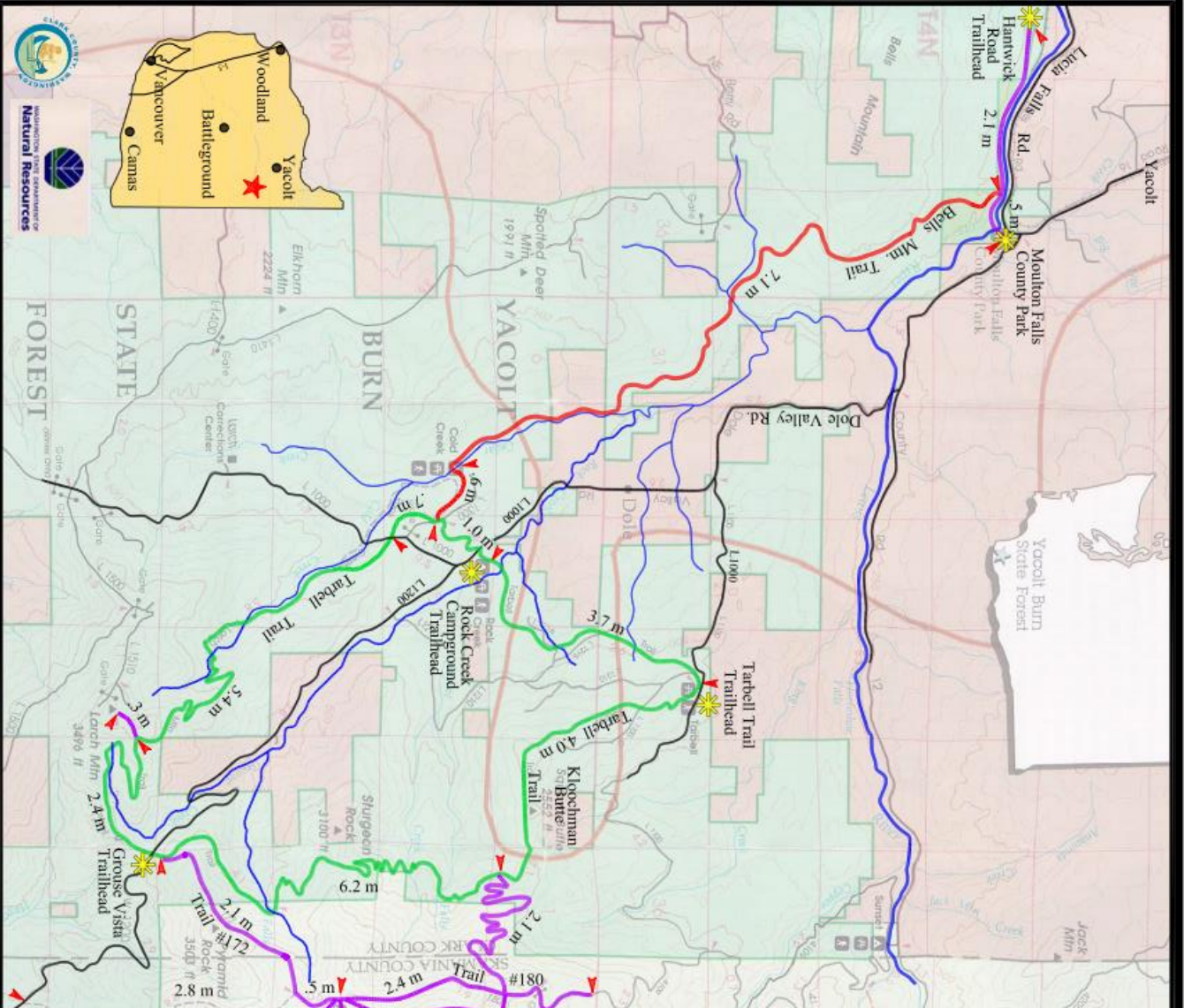
Trailheads are located on Hanwick Road and Moulton Falls Regional Park off of Lucia Falls Road, Rock Creek Campground on DNR L1000 Road, Grouse Vista on the L1200 Road and the Tarbell Trailhead on the E1100 Road which are all accessible from the Dole Valley Road.

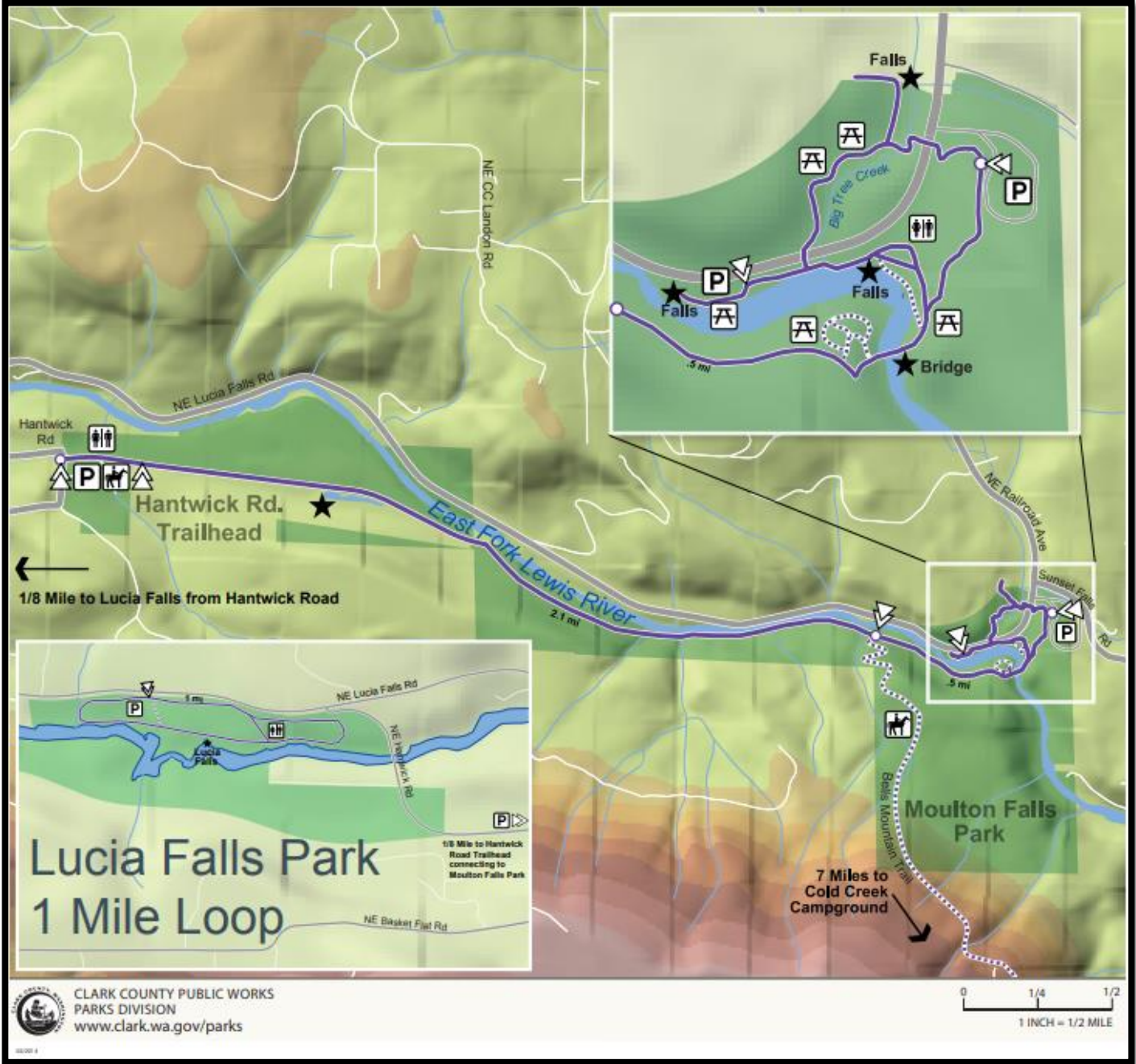
By car: 5 miles northeast of Battle Ground on Lucia Falls Road to Moulton Falls Parking Lot. 1/2 mile walk through park over pedestrian bridge to Bells Mtn. Trailhead / Kloesk.

Warning: Trail conditions may vary. Temporary obstructions (i.e., fallen trees, landslides, erosion) may exist and make access difficult. Maximum grades of 20% are common and cross slopes may vary.



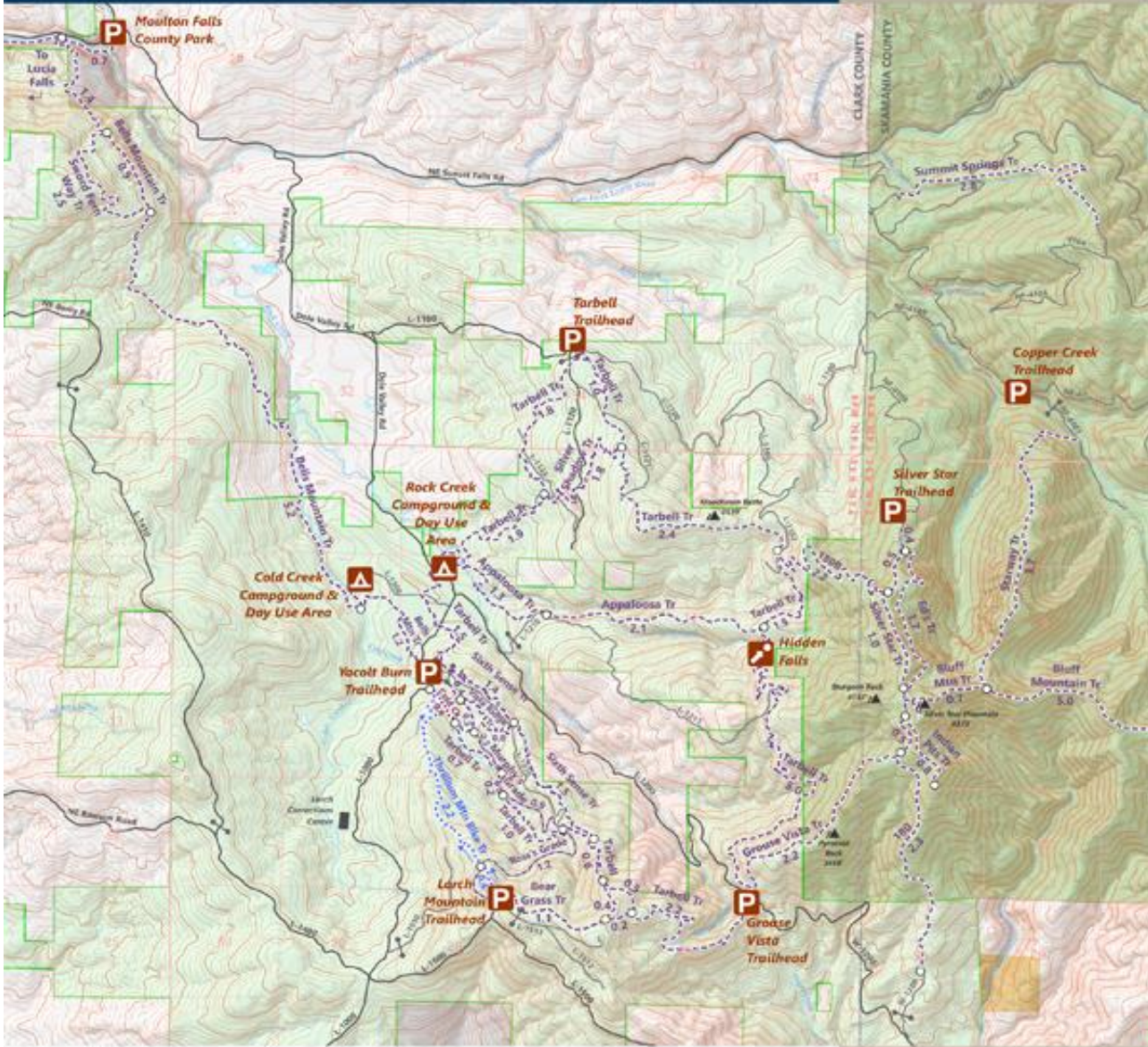
Base Map Courtesy of Washington State Department of Natural Resources





# Recreation and Trails Map

## Yacolt Burn State Forest Non-Motorized Trails



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles  
1:34,000 Contour Interval 40 feet



Produced by Pacific Cascade Region  
Recreation and GIS Staff June 2017

- Parking or Trailhead
- Campground
- Point of Interest
- Mileage Marker
- Closed Gate
- DNR-Managed Lands
- US Forest Service Land
- Municipal or County Watershed
- Hike / Horse / Mountain Bike
- Hike / Mountain Bike
- Mountain Bike Only (One Way)

Other gates, not shown on the map, are normally open. However, they may be closed at any time to facilitate specific work projects.

**Note to map users:** Extreme care was used during compilation of this map to ensure accuracy. However, due to changes in ownership and the need to rely on outside sources of information, the Department of Natural Resources cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions. Therefore, there are no warranties which accompany this material.



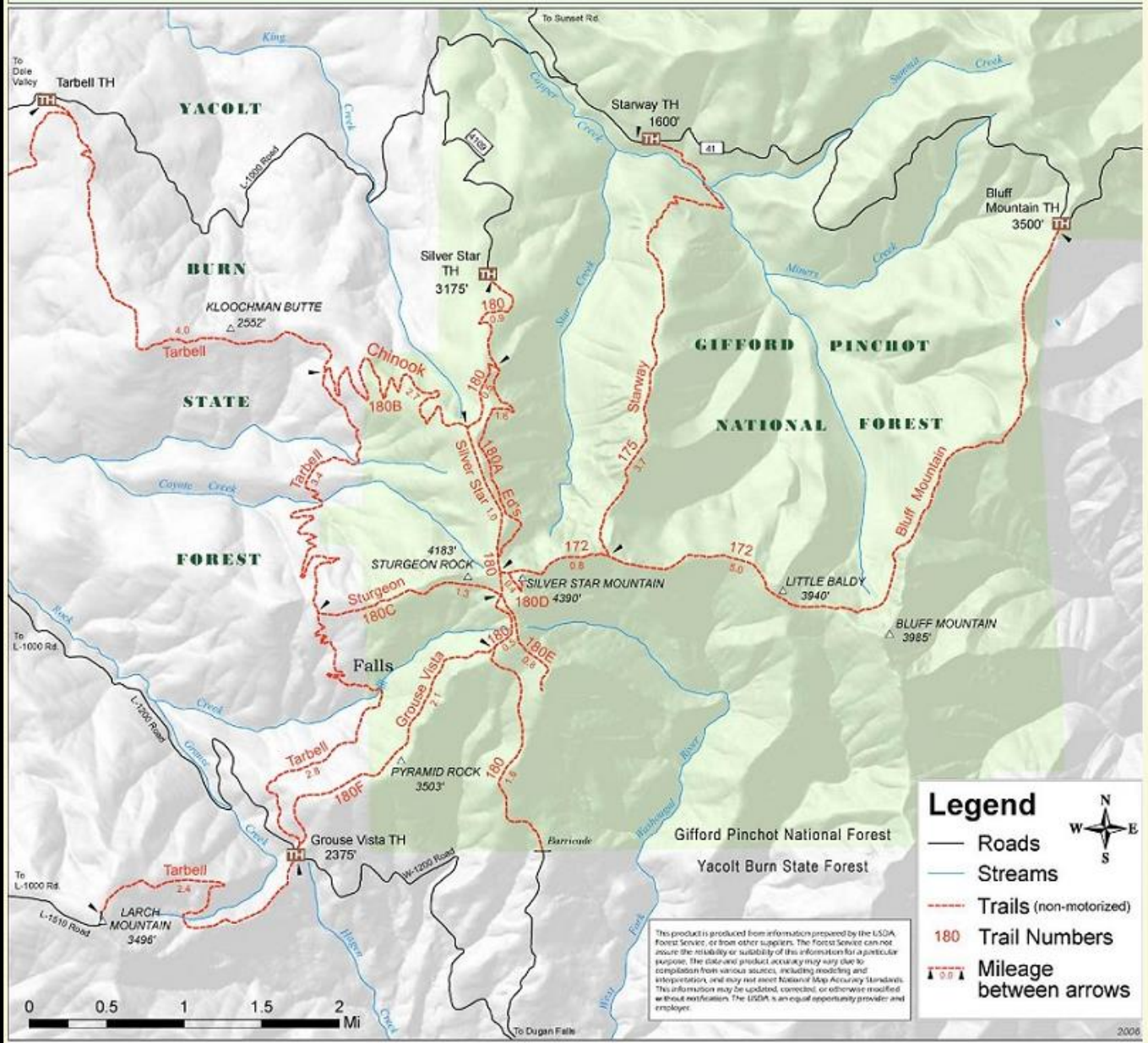
To Download Map:



[dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov)



# Silver Star Trails



# Chinook Trail Association

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*CTA Board Member, Logan Forgey, 2019*