

# Wilderness.net's Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Fact Sheet



## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness in 1964 and it now has a total of 69,517 acres. All of the wilderness is in Oregon and is managed by the Forest Service.

## Description

This high-country rugged Wilderness contains five of the seven major life zones in North America.

Glaciation hollowed out beds in U-shaped valleys that today hold seven alpine lakes. Elevation ranges from

about 4,000 feet to 9,038 feet atop Strawberry Mountain in the east-central portion. Large numbers of larch, the only conifer to lose its needles, turn to gold in fall, highlighting a forest of spruce, pine, and fir. Accenting the gold hues are wild strawberries that ripen to juicy redness in July, and mountain basins blooming with summer wildflowers. A native population of Rocky Mountain elk reside here with mule deer, antelope, black bears, cougars, mink, and beavers. Martens and hawks watch the wildlife action from on high. There is approximately 125 miles of trail within this wilderness which offers room for backpacking trips of a week or more. The trails take you through a variety of vegetation changes including remnants of past wildfires, the most recent one being in 2013.

## Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

## Area Management

The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness is part of the 110 million acre National Wilderness

Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

## **General Wilderness Prohibitions**

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed below for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

## **Wilderness-Specific Regulations**

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed on the 'Links' tab for more specific information about the regulations listed.

### **ALL VISITORS**

- Group size is limited to no more than 12 people and 18 head of pack or saddle stock per party.
- Do not shortcut switchbacks.
- Pack out all debris, garbage, or other waste.
- Camping in excess of 30 days within a 45-day period is prohibited.

-- Caching or storing equipment, personal property, or supplies (including a boat or raft) is prohibited.

-- As with all designated Wilderness, mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts, bicycles, and other vehicles) is prohibited.

#### STOCK USERS

-- Do not hitch or tether pack or saddle stock to trees or other vegetation, except when loading, unloading, or watering.

## Contacts

**Prairie City Ranger District**  
PO BOX 337  
PRAIRIE CITY, OR 97869

Phone: 541-820-3311

Phone: 541-575-3000

**Malheur National Forest**  
PO BOX 909  
431 PATTERSON BRIDGE ROAD  
JOHN DAY, OR 97845

## Links to Other Websites

[Malheur National Forest, Strawberry Mountain Wilderness](#)

## Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

## Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
<b>Public Law 88-577</b>	<b>September 3, 1964</b>	<b>33,004</b>

The Wilderness Act - Public law 88-577 (9/3/1964) To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes

 [download 88-577](#)

**Public Law 98-328**

**June 26, 1984**

**35,300**

Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 - Public law 98-328 (6/26/1984) To designate certain national forest system lands in the State of Oregon for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes

 [download 98-328](#)