

Blue Mountain Management Unit Park Ranger 2 Position FAQ's



Where is the Blue Mountain Management Unit geographically located?

The Blue Mountain Management Unit office is based at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area. The park is 26 miles west of La Grande, Oregon, and 25 miles east of Pendleton, Oregon on Interstate 84 near the summit of the beautiful Blue Mountains.

What can you expect as a Park Ranger 2 at the Blue Mountain Management Unit?

If you are looking for a diverse work experience to demonstrate and sharpen your skills as a Park Ranger in camp operations, visitor services and maintenance, then this position may be right for you. Due to the wide distribution and remoteness of parks, this position is required to possess a variety of skills. These skills are put to use in daily operations emphasizing quality customer service and park operations as well as in a wide range of maintenance, organization, volunteer coordination, leading and directing seasonal staff. Existing management and staff are eager to support someone wanting to work in an environment that showcases the natural and cultural beauty of Eastern Oregon.

Where is the previous Park Ranger Now?

The most recent Blue Mountain Ranger 2 Larry Peters is now retired after 26 years with the Agency.

What is the Blue Mountain Management Unit staff like?

Clay



Clay joined Oregon State Parks in 2008 as a Park Ranger on the Coast then moved to the Valley's Region in late 2010 as a Ranger Supervisor at Milo McIver State Park. He is the Park Manger for the Blue Mountain Management Unit. Prior to coming to Oregon State Parks Clay worked with the National Wildlife Refuge System and Tribal organizations. Clay is a native Oregonian who grew up in the Columbia River Gorge. He has degrees from New Mexico State University and the University of Montana.

Megan



Megan is the newest addition to Oregon State Parks Blue Mountain team; starting her career May 2014 as the unit's Office Coordinator. Prior to coming to Oregon State Parks Megan was a Patient Care Coordinator who scheduled medical appointments, entered patient and billing information and reviewed insurance. She also has experience with agricultural coding and billing systems and DMV registration. Megan is a native Oregonian who grew up in the Klamath Falls area.

Richard



Richard has a broad background including such professions as law enforcement, independent contractor and working with troubled youth. Starting with Oregon State Parks in 1996 as a Ranger Assistant, he promoted to Interpretive Ranger in Southern Oregon in 2000. In 2002 he transferred to the Central Coast for one year until moving to the Blue Mountain Unit. He has been here ever since working with the Oregon Youth Authority crew and coordinating construction and maintenance projects.

Brenda



Brenda brought her property management background to Oregon State Parks in 1998 in the Wallowa Lake Unit. After eight seasons there as Ranger Assistant, she promoted to lead Park Ranger 2 over the satellite state parks. In 2006 she transferred within the Blue Mountain Unit to assume Visitor Service Ranger responsibilities at Emigrant Springs. After eight years at Emigrant Springs Brenda has returned to be lead ranger for the unit's satellite parks.

Patrick



Patrick has never stopped calling the LaGrande area home. As Maintenance Ranger at Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area, Patrick uses skills that he acquired during six years in the Navy and 30 years with Oregon State Parks. Beginning as a Ranger Assistant in the unit's satellite parks in 1984, Patrick then promoted to Southern Oregon parks in 1987 then returned home to the Blue Mountains in 1988. He has been working on maintenance tasks and campground duties in this unit since.

Brian



Brian came to Oregon State Parks in 2007 as a Park Ranger Assistant in the Tryon Creek Management Unit where he worked throughout the unit. In 2012 Brian was promoted to a Seasonal Ranger 2 at Hat Rock State Park in the Blue Mountain Management Unit. Brian was in the Oregon Army National Guard for 12 years as an Infantry Squad Leader and worked as an arborist and in irrigation for many years prior to coming to Oregon State Parks. Brian is a native Oregonian who grew up in the Milwaukie area.

An excellent **seasonal staff** comprised of nine motivated and teamwork-oriented Ranger Assistants support the permanent staff featured above.

What properties are included in the Blue Mountain Management Unit?



Cabins are open year round.

Emigrant Springs State Heritage Area is a 52 site campground with 2 historic rental cabins, 6 rustic cabins, 6 horse camp sites, and two group tent areas. The original mess hall from the Civilian Conservation Corps camp has been rehabilitated into a modern Community Building complete with commercial kitchen, modern restrooms, and large common area. This building is very popular for weddings, reunions, and special events. Common park visitor activities in the vicinity include mushroom/berry gathering, hiking, horse riding, hunting, sledding, and visiting the park's historic attractions such as the remaining original springs, the Oregon Trail interpretive kiosk, Ezra Meeker trail marker, and a monument to the first wagon train over the Old Oregon Trail dedicated by President Harding in 1923. Visitors also make day trips to numerous nearby historic and tourist attractions.

Battle Mountain State Park is located high in the Blue Mountains north of Ukiah. Ponderosa pine, larch, fir, and spruce trees provide habitat for all kinds of wildlife. The name commemorates one of the last battles between Native Americans and settlers which took place near the park. The park has large lawn areas and historic stone features used by group gatherings.

Catherine Creek State Park is a primitive campground with 20 campsites. Situated next to Catherine Creek allows cooling off in the creek, hiking along the trails, and enjoying views of picturesque canyon scenery. The separate day use facility has two reservation picnic areas to accommodate the high demand for weddings and family reunions.



Hat Rock State Park is an oasis lying below a signature landmark first recorded in 1805 by Lewis and Clark. Tall shade trees and acres of green grass in the midst of a rocky sagebrush steppe landscape invites picnicking. Hike, bike, and equestrian trails encourage exploring the park and miles of other connecting trails. A boat ramp offers access to Lake Wallula, a high desert reservoir on the Columbia River popular for fishing, waterfowl hunting, boating, or site seeing from a touring sternwheeler.

Scenic Corridors. The Blue Mountain, Ukiah-Dale, and Battle Mountain State Scenic Corridors offer miles of scenic vistas, viewpoints, and access to the remote interior of the Blue Mountains.

Hilgard Junction State Park. The Grande Ronde River flows, and the Old Oregon Trail winds through the park which has 18 primitive campsites. There is also a popular day use area used for swimming, rafting, and group gatherings among cottonwood and ponderosa pines.





Red Bridge State Park offers visitors 10 primitive campsites and 10 walk-in tent campsites under a ponderosa pine and cottonwood forest. Situated along the banks of the Grande Ronde River, the day use portion of the park is very popular for family reunions and weddings.



Ukiah-Dale State Park is adjacent to Camas Creek. The campground offers 27 primitive campsites and is within a ponderosa pine, fir, and western larch forest. Although along Highway 395, this park offers a remote experience complete with *all* Eastern Oregon wildlife nearby.



Catherine Creek State Park is a primitive campground with 20 campsites. Situated next to Catherine Creek allows cooling off in the creek, hiking along the trails, and enjoying views of picturesque canyon scenery. The separate day use facility has two reservation picnic areas to accommodate the high demand for weddings and family reunions.



Iskuulpa Creek Viewpoint offers spectacular views of the diverse Blue Mountains. Mature Ponderosa Pine forests mixed with vast grass covered slopes are home to deer, elk, turkey, and more. The property is located along the Blue Mountain State Scenic Corridor within the boundaries of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and is important to tribal members for many traditional activities.

What is the weather like?

The weather varies significantly between the parks of this management unit. Located at an elevation of approximately 4000', Emigrant Springs and Battle Mountain experience much more snow in the winter and cooler temperatures during the summer. Hat Rock is the warmest of the parks being located in the sagebrush steppe portion of the unit. The remaining parks are located in lower elevations, but are cooled by being in shaded portions of the unit. For more information, follow the instructions and websites below.

Pendleton: On the Pendleton Chamber of Commerce website (below) choose Relocation and then Regional Facts and Figures.

LaGrande: On the Union County Chamber of Commerce website (below) choose About, then Facts and Figures, then Weather.

Meacham: Average precipitation: 32 inches; Average monthly highs: 40–88 degrees; Average monthly lows: 25–52 degrees.

What is the community like and what is there to do in the area?

These websites describe more about the communities within the Blue Mountain Management Unit:

<http://www.oregonstateparks.org>

<http://www.pendletonchamber.com/>

<http://oregonphotos.com/Meacham.html>

<http://www.unioncountychamber.org/>

