

Kings Mountain Trailhead to Jones Creek Trailhead

This segment of the trail offers amazing views of steep rugged canyons in a remote setting.

To access the trail from Kings Mountain Trailhead, follow Kings Mountain Trail for 0.1 mile to the Wilson River Trail junction. At the junction turn left onto the westbound segment of the Wilson River Trail. The initial 0.3 mile fords the first of several streams, crosses an old road and climbs gradually along rolling terrain. The trail meets a wooden bridge and follows a series of switchbacks uphill, rising high above the Wilson River Highway. As you near the 1.0 mile mark and the ridge crest, take in the view of Douglas-fir trees blanketing the slopes. Overhead, lichen dangles from bigleaf maple branches.

The trail levels out and skirts below the ridgeline for the next 2.0 miles. Visitors will experience open, exposed slopes with distant views; large, charred snags riddled with pileated woodpecker holes; and two massive basalt formations rising up from the canyon floor. Nearing the 4.0 mile mark the route dives into a dense forest beginning a 1.8 mile descent to the North Fork of the Wilson River. As you meander through sword ferns, you may hear sounds of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles from Diamond Mill OHV Staging Area. At the 5.5 mile point, a graceful arched bridge spans 110 feet across the North Fork of the Wilson River. Take a moment to peer into the blue-green water to see if you can spot any fish.

To reach Jones Creek Trailhead in 1.9 miles, cross the bridge and veer left along the river. Make sure to bring a camera to capture Lester Creek Falls. In 0.5 mile the trail crosses North Fork Road, and climbs into the forest. The next 0.9 mile rises over a small crest and crosses the road for a second time. The remaining 0.5 mile downhill to the Jones Creek Day-Use Area passes several western thatching anthills and seven magnificent legacy trees that survived in the Tillamook Burn.

Tillamook Treasures



Coho (silver) Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)

Rivers throughout the Tillamook State Forest support native salmon and trout. Coho salmon prefer small streams and travel upriver from October to January to spawn, while young fry head downriver in the spring. The Tillamook Forest Center, Smith Homestead Day-Use Area, Diamond Mill OHV Staging Area and Nehalem Falls Campground are great places to see these majestic creatures. The Oregon Department of Forestry is making leaps for fish by taking measures to restore, maintain and enhance salmon habitat.

Be Prepared

- Let someone know your plans
- Lock your vehicle
- Read trailhead signs
- Pack plenty of water

Protect the Forest

- Stay on designated trails
- Share the trail
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Check current fire conditions



For More Information

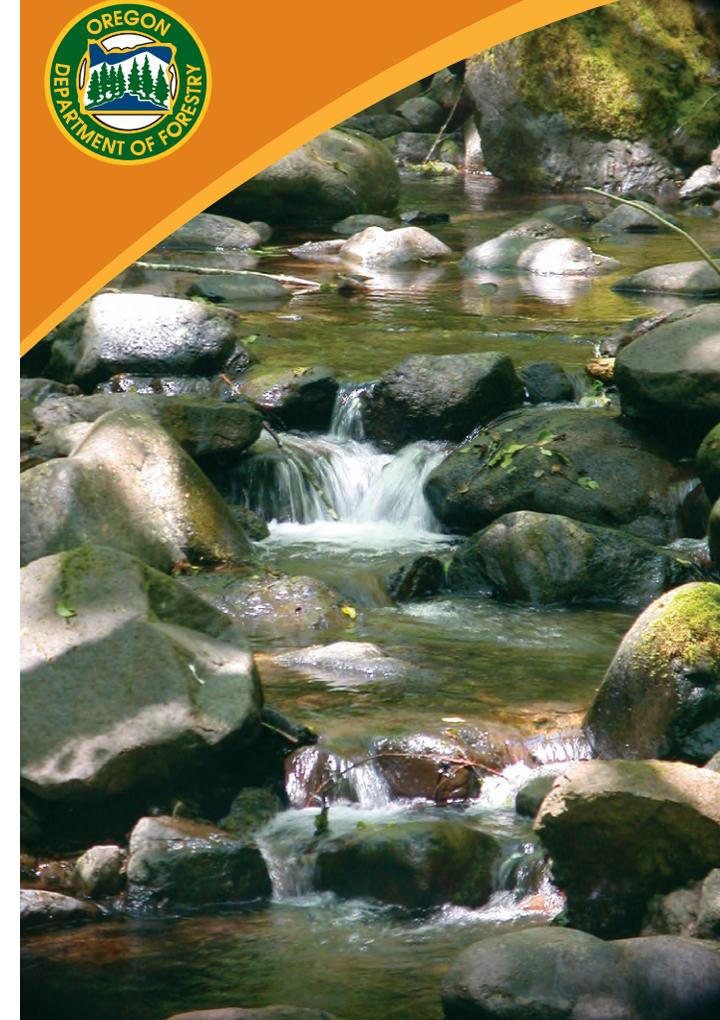
Oregon Department of Forestry
Forest Grove District Office
801 Gales Creek Road
Forest Grove, OR 97116
(503) 357-2191
www.oregon.gov/ODF

CAUTION

Use extra caution when driving on single-lane gravel roads in the forest. Drive slowly and watch for truck traffic. Be prepared for changing trail and weather conditions, steep terrain and loose rock.

Tillamook State Forest TRAIL GUIDE

Wilson River Trail Elk Creek – Jones Creek Trailhead



LENGTH:
DIFFICULTY:

11.0 miles
Moderate

Elk Creek Trailhead to Kings Mt. Trailhead – 3.7 miles
Kings Mt. Trailhead to Jones Creek Trailhead – 7.5 miles

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trailhead Access

This trail can be reached from several trailheads.

Elk Creek Trailhead

Follow Highway 6 to milepost 28. Turn north onto Elk Creek Road and continue through Elk Creek Campground and cross the bridge to the trailhead.

Kings Mountain Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 near milepost 25. The trailhead is on the north side of the highway.

Jones Creek Trailhead

This trailhead is located at the Jones Creek Day-Use Area. Travel on Highway 6 between milepost 22 and 23. Turn north on North Fork Road following the signs to Jones Creek Campground. Proceed over the bridge turning left into the day-use area. The trail begins near the trailhead sign and heads down toward the river. If you access the Wilson River Trail from the Tillamook Forest Center, make sure to return prior to closing time because the gates will be locked after hours.

About the Trail

This trail can be enjoyed as one long journey or in sections. The Wilson River Trail is a 20.6 mile linear trail extending from Elk Creek to Keenig Creek Trailheads and may be accessed from several trailheads in between. This guide highlights the eastern portion of the trail from Elk Creek Trailhead to the Jones Creek Day-Use Area. A separate guide covers the western part of the trail that extends from Jones Creek to Keenig Trailheads. Parts of this trail travel along the Wilson River, and some sections are far from the river. The Oregon Department of Forestry manages the Tillamook State Forest for multiple recreational opportunities. A section of the non-motorized Wilson River Trail travels near a motorized trail zone and adjacent to the Diamond Mill Off Highway

Vehicle (OHV) Staging Area. You may hear sounds of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles from Diamond Mill to the Jones Creek Day-Use Area. Please make sure to remain on the appropriate designated trails.

Elk Creek Trailhead to Kings Mountain Trailhead

This portion of the Wilson River Trail is a great option for Elk Creek campers and day-use visitors.

The trail begins adjacent to an information sign with a fairly steep climb along the side of Elk Mountain. After passing the junction to Elk Mountain in 0.1 mile, the trail levels off. Hikers and mountain bikers will discover rocky outcrops, views of the Wilson River corridor, and plentiful wildlife under the forest canopy. Large insects

known as cicadas are often heard drumming overhead in tree branches, water ouzels dip in the creeks and lizards scurry over rocks.

At the 2.0 mile mark, the trail passes through a grove of alder trees as it crosses Dog Creek. Look for scratches on the tree trunks where Roosevelt elk have rubbed their antlers. The next mile of trail follows the mountain side, darting in and out of the forest canopy.



Rock outcrop from the trail

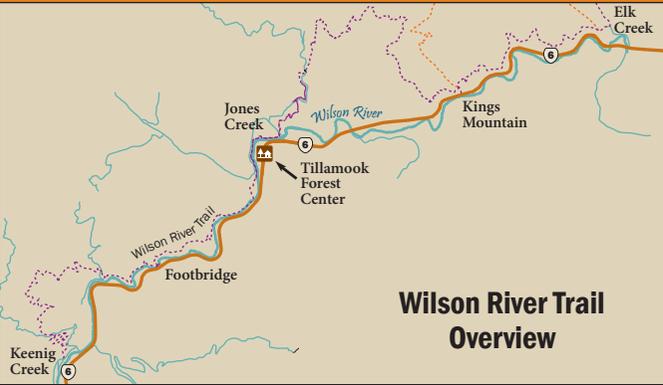
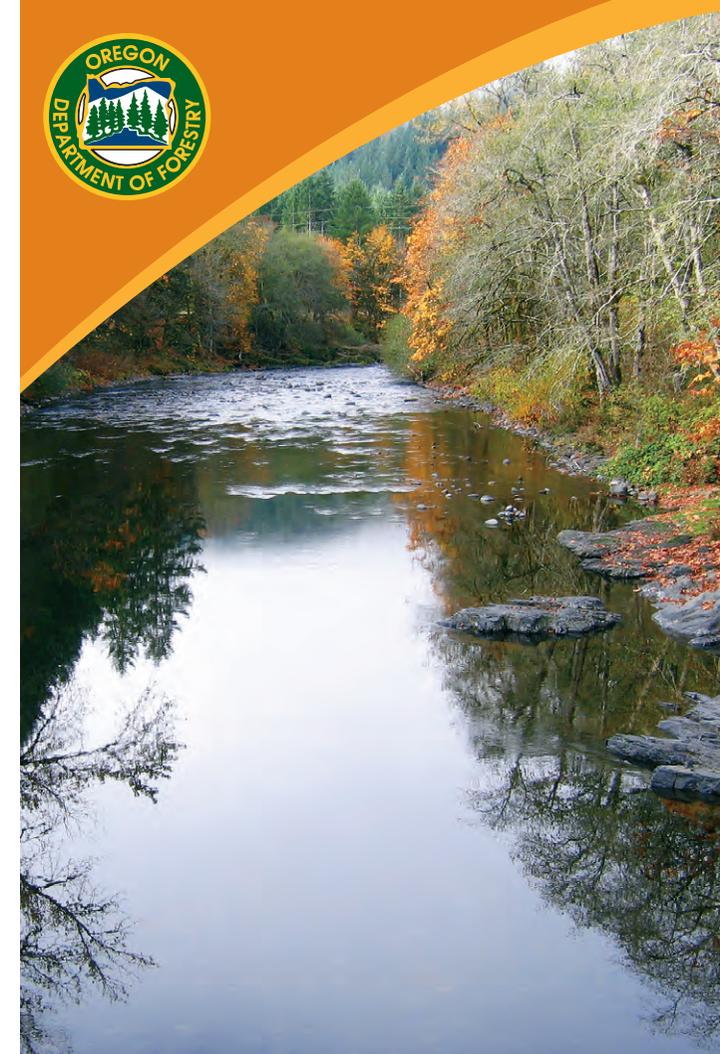
At 3.2 miles, a lush meadow appears where elk like to browse. This is a good place to turn around if a round-trip is planned. Otherwise continue 0.5 mile to reach Kings Mountain Trailhead. For a longer outing, cross Kings Mountain Trail and continue to the Jones Creek Day-Use Area and trailhead.



Tillamook State Forest TRAIL GUIDE

Wilson River Trail

Jones Creek – Keenig Creek Trailhead



Wilson River Trail
Overview



| | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| | Highway | | Gravel Road |
| | Hiking & Mt. Biking Trail | | Miles between points |
| | Trailhead | | Visitor Center |
| | Picnic Site | | Undeveloped Camping |
| | Camping | | Bridge |
| | State Land | | Private Land |
| | Highway Milepost Markers | | |

0 1/4 1/2

Be Prepared

- Let someone know your plans
- Lock your vehicle
- Read trailhead signs
- Pack plenty of water

Protect the Forest

- Stay on designated trails
- Share the trail
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Check current fire conditions



For More Information

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5005 East 3rd Street
Tillamook, OR 97141-2999
(503) 842-2545
www.oregon.gov/ODF

CAUTION

Use extra caution when driving on single-lane gravel roads in the forest. Drive slowly and watch for truck traffic. Be prepared for changing trail and weather conditions, steep terrain and loose rock.



LENGTH:
DIFFICULTY:

9.6 miles
Moderate

Jones Creek TH to Footbridge TH – 3.5 miles

Footbridge TH to Keenig Creek TH – 6.1 miles

TRAIL INFORMATION

Trailhead Access

This trail can be reached from several trailheads.

Jones Creek Trailhead

This trailhead is located at the Jones Creek Day-Use Area. Travel on Highway 6 between milepost 22 and 23. Turn north on North Fork Road, cross the bridge and turn left into the Jones Creek Day-Use Area. The trail begins near the trailhead sign and heads down toward the river.

Footbridge Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 to milepost 20 and park at the Footbridge Day-Use Area on the north side of the highway.

Keenig Creek Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 to milepost 18 and turn north on Cedar Butte Road and drive over the bridge. Turn left onto Muesial Creek Road and continue 0.2 mile to the trailhead on the right.

About the Trail

The Wilson River Trail is a 20.6 mile trail extending from Keenig Creek to Elk Creek Trailheads and may be accessed from several trailheads in between. This guide highlights the western portion of the trail from Jones Creek Trailhead to Keenig Creek Trailhead. A separate guide covers the eastern part of the trail, which extends from Elk Creek Trailhead to Jones Creek Day-Use Area.

Parts of this trail follow the Wilson River, and some sections venture into the forest away from the river. Visitors may enjoy this trail as one long journey or in sections.

The Oregon Department of Forestry manages the Tillamook State Forest for multiple recreational opportunities. Short portions of the non-motorized

Wilson River Trail travel near motorized trail zones. You may hear sounds of motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles. Please make sure to remain on the appropriate designated trails.

Jones Creek Trailhead to Footbridge Trailhead

This portion of the trail follows the north side of the Wilson River and Highway 6. The first mile meanders along the river past Jones Creek Campground and the Tillamook Forest Center — an award winning visitor center offering exhibits, nature programs, and facility rentals. If you reach the Wilson River Trail from the visitor center, make sure to return prior to closing time because the gates will be locked after hours.

Downstream from the center the trail meets Cedar Creek Road for about 100 feet - watch for traffic. Make sure to stay right and avoid side trails in the grove of red alders. At the 1.1 mile mark, a narrow log bridge with attached handrail crosses Cedar Creek. This spot is a great place to peer into pools for salmon in the fall, hear the call of a belted kingfisher or look for signs of beaver. From here the trail levels and passes a large Sitka spruce tree, and several large stumps.

The trail crosses under the power lines twice and then climbs away from the Wilson River and highway sounds. Maidenhair ferns appear on moist rock walls surrounded by western red cedar and bigleaf maple trees. At 2.0 miles, Wilson Falls cascades from a high ledge and flows across the rocky trail. This is a good destination spot for those who would like to have a shorter trip and return to either the Jones Creek Day-Use Area or the Tillamook Forest Center.

If a longer trip is desired, continue 1.3 miles on the trail crossing several bridges while enjoying the dense forest and small streams. Visitors will come to a junction with two options. The first leads across the Wilson River to the Footbridge Trailhead in 0.3 mile, and the other leads 6.1 miles to Keenig Creek Trailhead.



Wolf Creek

Footbridge Trailhead to Keenig Creek Trailhead

To reach the Wilson River Trail from the Footbridge Trailhead, park at the adjacent Footbridge Day-Use Area on the north side of the highway and find the side trail up to the road and to the footbridge.

Cross the footbridge to the connector trail that leads downhill over the dry river bed and into the forest for 0.3 mile to a junction with the Wilson River Trail. The trail travels west over a log bridge, and up to a rock bluff with nice views of the river below. The route drops into the next drainage, and soon intersects the Wolf Creek Road in 1.0 mile. Follow the road north 500 feet and pick up the trail heading down to the creek. A log bench offers a place to relax and enjoy the majestic view of mossy boulders and lush ferns absorbing the trickling water. This is a good place to have lunch and turn around if you have not arranged a shuttle from Keenig Creek Trailhead. Several majestic waterfalls spill down the rugged hillsides in the next 3.6 miles between Wolf Creek and Cedar Butte Road. Because this area is steep, be prepared for changing trail conditions, sheer drop-offs and loose rock especially during heavy rains.

From Wolf Creek, the first mile ascends quickly and then turns into a more gradual climb. Along the way small western hemlock trees dot the forest floor along with massive nurse logs that provide wildlife habitat and create niches for plants to grow. After reaching a vista-filled ridgeline, the trail fords the first of many streams that marks the beginning of the Ryan Creek watershed.

For the next 2.8 miles the gently rolling trail is carved out of steep hillsides and crosses beautiful cascading waterfalls. As you near Cedar Butte Road, enormous snags (standing dead trees) jut out of the ground serving as a reminder of a forest full of big trees that existed prior to the Tillamook Burn.

From Cedar Butte Road, the route begins a 1.5 mile descent to the Keenig Creek Trailhead. The trail traverses a number of switchbacks and a recent clearcut harvest area. Several trees remain in the open area for natural seed dispersal, and debris on the ground contributes to organic matter needed on the forest floor.

Tillamook Treasures

Indian-pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*)

These peculiar flowers grow in coniferous forests at low elevation, and may be spotted along this trail in mid-June. The flowers are white because they do not contain chlorophyll, which means they are not able to produce their own food. This plant is an indirect parasite called a mycoheterotroph — it obtains energy from a fungus, which in turn gets its energy from a living plant.

