

Blair Lake and Meadows

Location & USGS Map

T20S.R5E.S16-17; Blair Lake

Difficulty

Easy (lake or meadows) to moderate (outcrops or Rd 730)

Distance

5 miles round trip to Spring Prairie shelter at Rd 730

Elevation gain

900 feet (4780'–5600') to Spring Prairie shelter

Bloom period

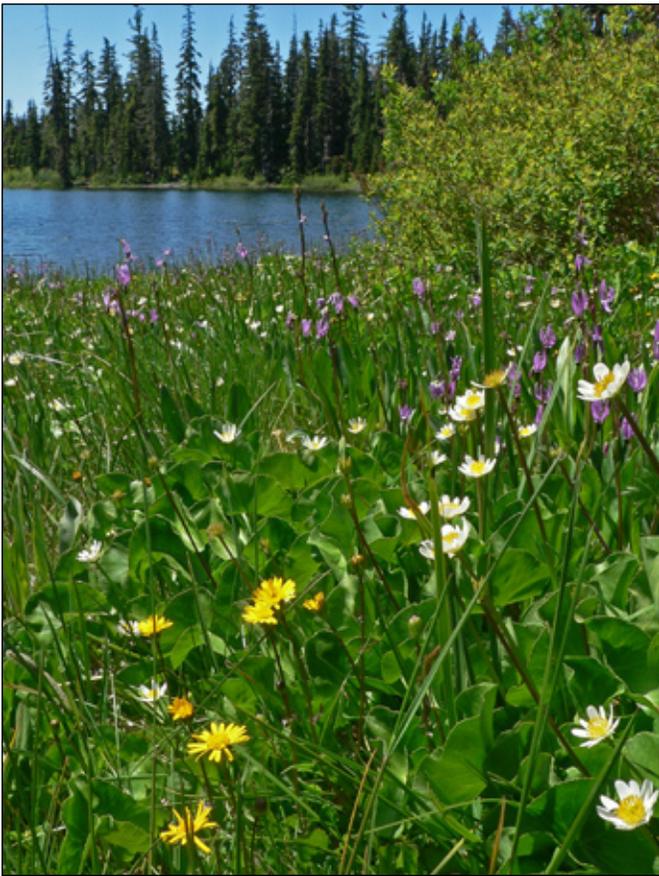
early June to late August

Highlights

wet meadows, butterflies

Directions

Drive east on Hwy 58 to Oakridge. At the lights turn left on Crestview St., drive over the bridge and turn right. Past downtown, this becomes Salmon Creek Rd 24. After 9.5 miles turn left onto Rd 1934. Follow this for approximately 7.5 miles and then fork right and uphill onto Rd 733. After about 1.3 miles you will reach the intersection of Rd 741 on the left. Road 733 deadends at the lake and campground in .2 mile. To get to the meadows, drive .2 mile on Rd 741. Park on the left just past the trailhead.



The wet meadow flowers reach right down to the lake in places across from the campground. In June they are filled with marsh marigolds, Jeffrey's shooting stars and the uncommon yellow alpine meadow groundsel (*Packera subnuda*, formerly *Senecio cymbalarioides*). A small path can be followed to circumnavigate the lake, but may require bushwhacking through several vigorous patches of hardhack and huckleberries.



Blair Lake is one of the best places in Lane County to look for butterflies in the summer. In August, the bright yellow spikes of goldenrod and abundant asters nourish many butterflies like this northern blue. Tasty huckleberries satisfy human visitors who also enjoy the area this time of year!

Whether you're looking for a place to do some relaxing botanizing, butterflying, swimming or picnicking in the mountains, Blair Lake is a great choice. With lush meadows and a lake right by the road, this area is perfect for those not up to serious hiking. But if you do like to hike, there is an extensive trail which continues for 14 miles all the way to the Waldo Lake wilderness. The trail starts at Blair Lake Meadows, a mainly moist to wet area with a long season of bloom. In June, look for shooting star, marsh marigold, blue-eyed grass, delphiniums, a number of species of violets, and shrubs such as twinberry and huckleberries in bloom. Later elephanthead and bog orchids and both species of spiraea (along with their hybrid) add color to the area. Some years the beargrass along the drier edges is outstanding. Even in August, the meadow is ablaze with goldenrods, asters and owlclover and there are plenty of huckleberries to keep the non-flower lovers happy. In June or July it is well worth going up the trail for 1.4 miles to a rocky outcrop that overlooks the lake. Beautiful Cascade fleabane, paintbrush, saxifrage, Crater Lake sandwort, the uncommon curved-beak lousewort and, if you are early enough, threeleaf lewisia can be found here. Just .2 mile farther the trail reaches a somewhat barren slope with sulphur buckwheat and pussypaws and a great view of Diamond Peak. Right after the snow melts many tiny steersheads make their brief appearance here. The trail continues through Beal Prairie, a large meadow where few plants other than tiger lilies are able to compete with the thick stands of beargrass. After a small stretch of woods, the trail reaches Rd 730 and another beargrass meadow called Spring Prairie with great views of the Three Sisters.