

Fuji Mountain

Location & Map

T22S.R6E.S15; Mount David Douglas

Difficulty

Moderate

Distance

3.0 miles round trip

Elevation gain

1000 feet (6200–7144')

Peak bloom

July–August, peak mid- to late July

Highlights

close-in High Cascade flora, rare plants, spectacular view

Directions

Drive east on Hwy 58 for over 15 miles past Oakridge. Just beyond where the railroad trestle crosses over the road turn left at Rd 5883, Eagle Creek Rd. Follow this for 11.5 miles, staying to the left at all intersections. Park at a small pull-off to the right. The trail is on the left.



Few easily accessible views can rival that seen from the old lookout site atop Fuji Mountain. Spread out in front of you is almost a bird's eye view of Waldo Lake and many of the Cascade peaks including the Three Sisters and Mt. Bachelor. Dwarf hulsea (*Hulsea nana*) blooms on the rocks in August.



Of the many unusual plants found on Fuji Mountain, Villous cinquefoil (*Potentilla villosa*) has to be the rarest. It has not been seen anywhere else in Oregon for a number of years. Its bright yellow flowers and handsome silvery leaves remain tantalizingly out of reach, perched precariously on the edge of the cliff. Binoculars and a zoom lens are a must for botanizing this rocky pinnacle!

You won't find a shorter route to get a look at the wonderful flora of the High Cascades. While the trail begins much lower down, if your main goal is to spend time at the top without burning too many calories, there is another easier access to the upper portion of the Fuji Mountain trail. While the beginning of this section of the trail is in the sparse, dry conifer woods typical of the High Cascades (good huckleberries though!), it soon reaches the west edge of the precipitous cliff. Look by the edge here for tiny sky pilot (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*), cliff paintbrush (*Castilleja rupicola*) and alpine sandwort (*Minuartia obtusiloba*). After another short stretch of woods the trail opens up again with a view to the east and a good population of dirty socks (*Eriogonum pyrolifolium*) and some rare shaggy hawkweed (*Hieracium bolanderi*). From here on there is terrific rocky habitat. After passing an area of profuse partridgefoot and pink mountain-heather, both very typical of the High Cascades, you reach the old lookout site and a jaw-dropping view of Waldo Lake and the Three Sisters. Along this rocky top grow many plants seldom seen in Lane County. Some are rare even in the Cascades. Among Fuji's special treasures are Merriam's alumroot (*Heuchera merriamii*), Cascade alpine catchfly (*Silene suksdorfii*), large-flowered wirelettuce (*Stephanomeria lactucina*) and villous cinquefoil (*Potentilla villosa*). If you are not afraid of heights, it is possible to follow the front of the cliff (but not too close!) all the way around until you reach the trail again at the first viewpoint along the west edge of the cliff, otherwise, return the way you came.