

Mount June

Location & USGS Map

T20S.R1E.S32,33; Mount June

Difficulty

Moderate (short steep stretch)

Distance and Elevation Gain

2.4 miles round trip; 900 feet, 3700'–4618'

Bloom period

mid-May to July, peak in June

Highlights

Great view, lots of rocky habitat, old growth forest

Directions

Take exit 188A east off of I-5 onto Hwy. 58. Drive 11.4 miles and turn right into Dexter at a sign for Lost Creek. Turn left at Eagle's Rest Rd after 3.7 miles. Follow this paved road for 7.7 miles. Stay to the left here onto what is now Rd 20-1-14. You will see a hiking sign. Follow this for 2.7 paved miles and 3.5 miles of gravel. At the crest of the hill turn left onto Rd 1721 and take the first quick left uphill on Rd 941 [sign says 20-1E 31.3]. After a somewhat rough .4 mile you'll see the trailhead sign on the right.



Mount June is one of the best places in the Western Cascades to get a close-up view of our quintessential outcrop species, cliff penstemon (*Penstemon rupicola*). In June, it lights up the outcrops alongside broadleaf stonecrop and spotted saxifrage.



The delicate boreal sandwort (*Minuartia rubella*) is a beautiful rock-loving plant, seldom seen in the Cascades.

Mount June is one of the closest places to Eugene where you can see a great display of subalpine flowers. This short hike leads past several rock outcrops to an old lookout site with a terrific view on a clear day (although fog is a common occurrence during peak bloom). The hike starts off in some dense forest with little undergrowth other than abundant western coralroot. Soon the woods become more open and are carpeted with typical Cascade woodland flora including oxalis, vanilla leaf, western trillium and fawn lilies as well as the unusual goldthread. About .7 mile from the trailhead you will reach an intersection. Take a right up the steep spine of the mountain (if you have time and energy on your way back, the other direction will take you 1.5 miles to a large floriferous meadow at Sawtooth Rock). As you approach the first outcrop, look to the right for the tall but inconspicuous maroon wands of western stananthium amid white panicles of wood saxifrage. Masses of Olympic onion and California mistmaiden can be found in the open along with cliff penstemon, rusty saxifrage, Tolmie's cat's ear and harsh paintbrush. Glacier lilies appear as the snow melts in May. Continue up the trail a few hundred yards. When you come out into the open you can take the main trail, to the left, directly to the summit. Or, to do more exploring first, continue straight across the opening of pinemat manzanita and follow a faint track as it heads to the left. You'll open out onto a very large outcrop area on south side of the mountain. Silvery white-leaved lupine, boreal sandwort, leafy daisy, creamy hot rock penstemon and the rare spring phacelia grow here. There's not much of a trail here, but continue back up the rocks, staying to the right of where you came in, and you will quickly reach the main trail. Turn right and the summit is just a few yards away. Before returning, enjoy the splendid view as well as northern buckwheat, tall varifleaf phacelia, orange wallflowers, bluefield gilia and more penstemons.