

Patterson Mountain

Location & USGS Map

T21S.R2E.S7; Westfir West

Difficulty

Moderate

Distance

4.6 miles round trip

Elevation gain

500 feet, 4240–4480'

Bloom period

mid-May to August, peak in June

Highlights

wet meadow, old growth forest

Directions

From Dexter continue east on 58 (approx. 12 miles). Turn right onto Patterson Mountain Road (Rd 5840) between mile posts 24 and 25. Go 5 miles to Patterson Saddle intersection. Go left towards Holland Point Junction then keep right onto 1714. Stay on 1714 approximately 3.2 miles. Be sure to stop after 2 miles to explore a seepy spot and again another half mile farther at a rocky road-cut in between clearcuts. There are lots of rock plants here and a good view of Bohemia and Fairview Mtns to the south. Then stay left heading onto Rd 5847. Within a short distance stay left and head onto 555. The Lone Wolf Trail Head is .4 mile farther on your left. After leaving 1714, you travel only about a half a mile total on roads 5847 and 555. It is also possible to reach rd 555 directly via 5847 from Hwy 58, but it is a few miles longer from Eugene and not as interesting a drive.

The variety of habitats at Patterson Mountain contributes to a great diversity of plant species and a long season of interest. The trail leads through majestic old growth forest to a large wet meadow, a dry meadow, and eventually ends at an area of rock outcrop. From the time the snow melts out around the middle of May to the late summer there are successive waves of wildflowers. The wet meadow, near the Lone Wolf Shelter, has an especially rich selection of wildflowers starting with skunk cabbage and mountain buttercup in May. These are followed by swamp laurel, great camas, white bog orchid, California false hellebore, ladies' tresses and many more. By late summer part of the meadow becomes yellow with goldenrod and draws many butterflies. The smaller dry meadow near the top also goes through many stages with one or two species dominating, starting with glacier lilies and Lyall's anemone followed by slender-tubed iris, Menzies' larkspur, scarlet paintbrush and Columbia lilies. There are also many glacier lilies to begin the flower season on the rock outcrop at the end of the trail along with spreading phlox, saxifrages and pretty rock ferns. There is a great view of Lookout Point Reservoir to the north and many mountains including the Three Sisters.



One of the highlights of the large wet meadow near the Lone Wolf shelter is the bright pink sweep of swamp laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*) soon after snowmelt in late May and early June.



Magnificent old growth conifers tower over an understory of Pacific rhododendrons while Oregon wood sorrel carpets the forest floor.