

# Herman Creek Trail #406

## Recreation Opportunity Guide



Distance..... 10.5 miles (one way)  
Elevation..... 160-4300 feet  
Snow Free ..... June to October



**Trail Highlights:** This trail is in the Mark O. Hatfield Wilderness Area. Herman Creek Trail explores the largest surviving forest of old growth fir, cedar, and hemlock left in the Columbia Gorge. Spring fed groves of ancient cedar tower above Big Cedar Swamp Shelter while equally large Noble Fir, Douglas Fir and Western Hemlock fill a fire-preserved basin of the East Fork Herman Creek. A parade of waterfalls, innumerable moss carpeted creeks, a sub-alpine lake, and ridge top vistas offer a variety of scenery for either the equestrian or backpacker using the Herman Creek Trail.

**Trail Description:** Herman Creek Trail starts at the west end of the Herman Creek Campground. Near the beginning of the trail, keep left at an unmarked fork. Follow the switchbacks across a power line access road, then climb another 0.4 mile to a well-signed fork. Take the left fork (east). The path soon joins an old dirt road. Proceed uphill 0.6 miles to Herman Camp primitive campsite. Continue straight past Herman Camp. The road soon becomes a trail again. You'll cross several side creeks, one with a 100' waterfall. 2.6 miles past Herman Camp, you'll reach a junction with Casey Creek Trail #476 on left (east). Continue right on Herman Creek Trail another 6 miles to junction with Pacific Crest Trail #2000. Turn left (east) on the PCT and proceed 1.6 mile to south shore of Wahtum Lake.

### Regulations & Leave No Trace Information:

- Group size is limited to 12. Stock are counted in the group size. For example, 3 people riding their own horse plus a spare horse in the group for packing would make a group of 7.

#### Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare: Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces: Use established trails and campsites.
- Dispose of Waste Properly: Pack out all trash, leftover food and litter.
- Leave What You Find: Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Minimize Campfire Impacts: Use established fire rings & keep fires small.
- Respect Wildlife: Control pets at all times.
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors: Avoid loud voices and noises.

For information on **Leave No Trace**, go to [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org) or call 1-800-332-4100

**For current trail conditions and more recreation information go to:**

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/mthood>

Map and driving directions on next page

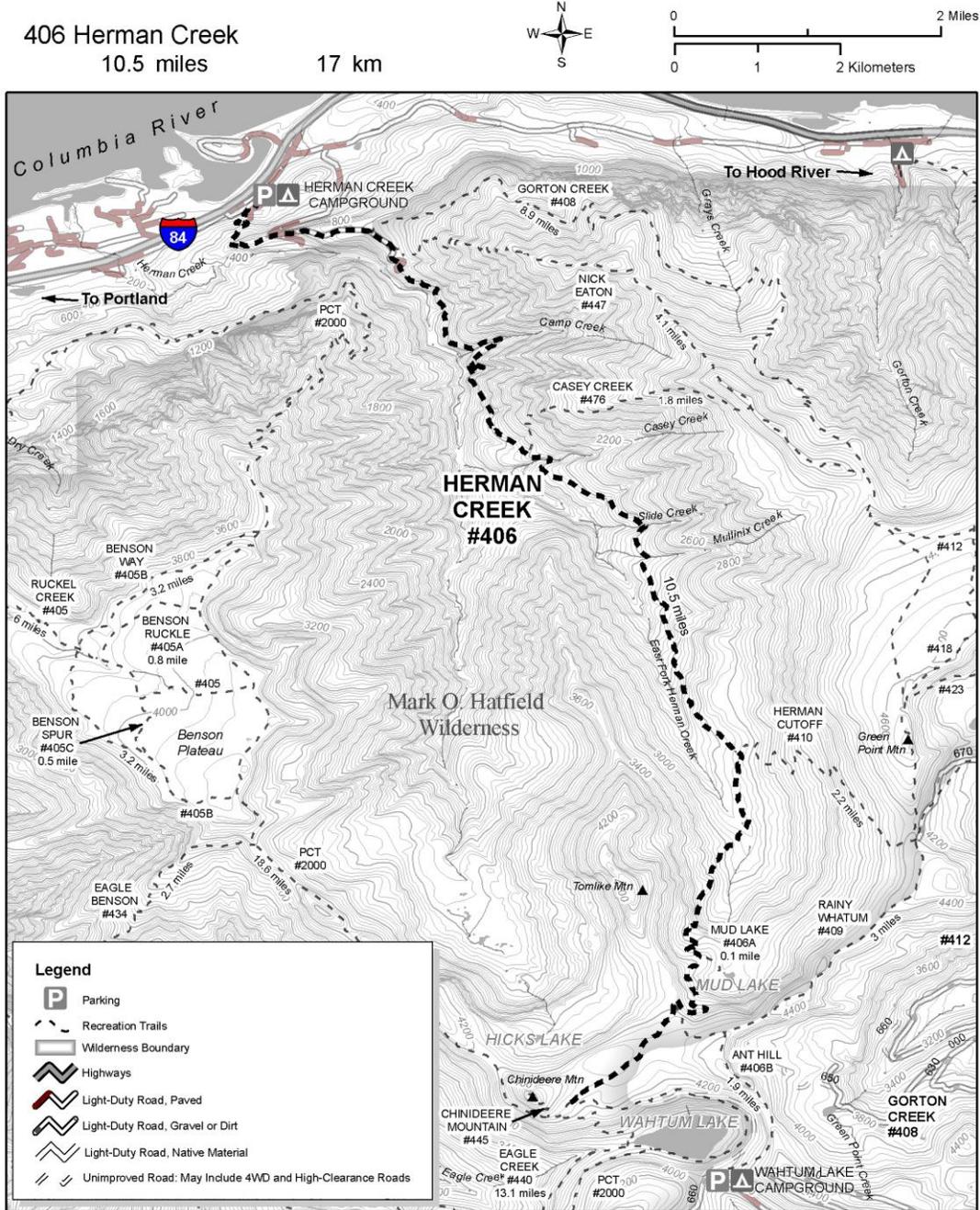
Mt. Hood National Forest  
16400 Champion Way  
Sandy, OR 97055  
503-668-1700

Hood River Ranger District  
6780 Hwy 35  
Parkdale, Oregon 97041  
541-352-6002

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**Directions to Trailhead:** Eastbound I-84 – Take Cascade Locks exit # 44. Drive under I-84 and through town 1.8 miles to the eastbound entrance ramp. From the stop sign, continue east 1.6 miles toward Oxbow Fish Hatchery, then on to Herman Creek Campground.  
Westbound I-84 – Take Herman Creek exit # 47. Drive 0.6 mile west on Forest Lane to Herman Creek Campground. The trailhead is at the west end of the campground.  
 For access to the south end of this trail, see trail guide for Chinideere Mtn. #445



**Recommended maps:** Hood River Ranger District

