

University Falls and Gravelle Brothers Trail



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This nice wooded trail follows Elliott Creek along the slope of the hills of the Tillamook State Forest. University Falls is worth the 500 feet detour, providing a beautiful view of the waterfall.

North Coast State Forest Coalition
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Details

Hike Difficulty: Moderate

Distance: 3.3 miles round trip

Elevation Gain: 287 feet over 2.7 miles

Walk Duration: 2 hours at a steady pace

Condition: Trail is nicely maintained, but used by bikers so be aware of them



Directions to Trailhead

Drive west from Portland on US 26 (Sunset Highway) for 36 miles (measured from the

Sylvan exit at the summit of the West Hills to Browns Camp). Turn left into Brown's camp and take a right at the "T" intersection, where the road turns into gravel, and follow signs to the University Falls Trailhead, which will be approximately 3 miles.

TRAIL LOG



The trail begins with a short climb over a rocky ridge and crosses two ATV trails. Given the noise these beasts make, it is hard to be surprised by them. Another 0.4 mile descent leads to a wooded ridge with an open space sufficient to hitch horses to the hitching post that is located in the glen. To reach the falls, look for the sign marking the way and continue down this trail 500 feet to the falls. University Falls is a lovely cascade, and is easily enjoyable. To continue on the loop back to Roger's Camp Trail head, retrace your steps back about 500 feet from the waterfall to the open area with the hitching post for horses. Another short trail also extends down to the stream.



However, the Gravelle Brothers trail strikes out from this ridge, diverging Northward near to where the initial trail descending from the trailhead enters in to the clearing. Note the

many scorched stumps along the way, as they are the legacy of the infamous Tillamook Burn. One of the prevalent wildflowers in this region is the Anemone. This white petaled plant is to be found in early summer in the deep wooded shade, and is sometimes called the wind flower. After 1.8 miles, there will be an intersection with the Storey Burn Trail. Just before the intersection with the Storey Burn Trail, the trail crosses Elliott Creek on a log bridge (above). This is a nice place to rest, with a bench for you and nice pools for your four legged friends. Another 0.8 miles after the intersection with the Storey Burn Trail will lead to the old road grade to Rogers Camp. A right turn here leads quickly up to a gravel road that leads to an Oregon Department of Forestry maintenance shed and continues behind the cement barriers.



Info and photos from Jim Thayer,
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