

# Shellburg Falls Recreation Area



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

The Shellburg Falls Recreation Area is located near Lyons, Oregon in the Santiam State Forest and is managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry. It offers a peaceful, secluded recreational experience. Whether you enjoy camping, hiking, mountain biking, equestrian riding or simply exploring nature, you'll find many things to do and see.

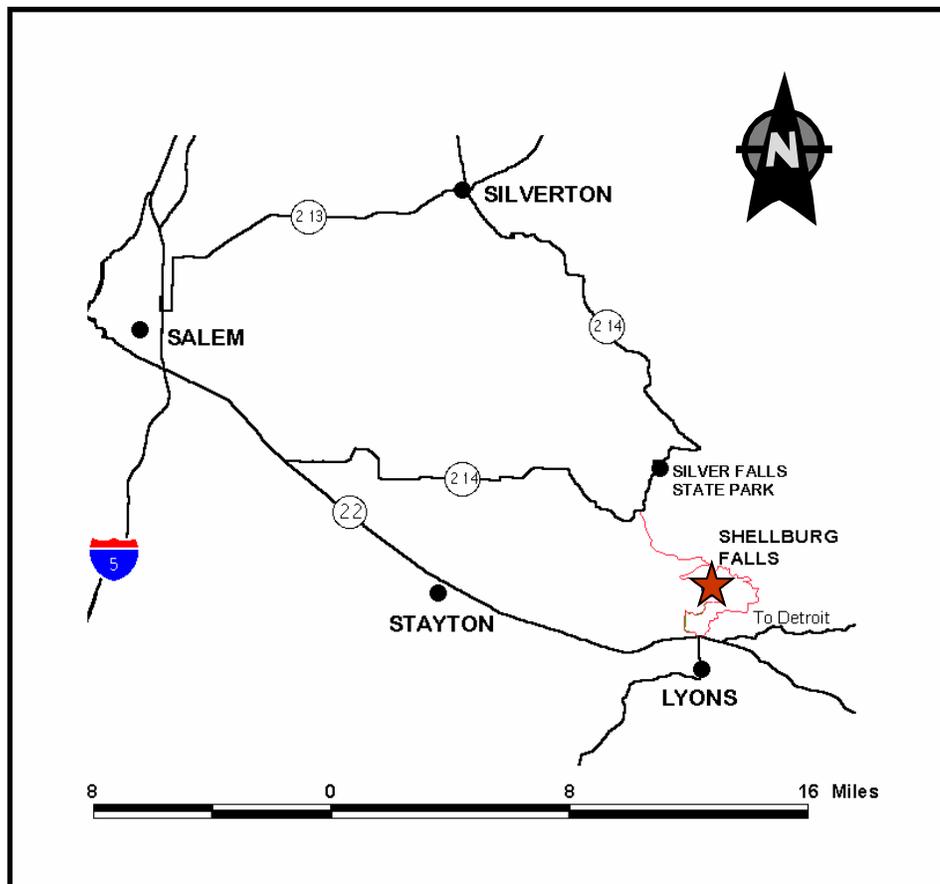
There are currently two developed trails. The first is the Shellburg Falls Trail. This trail is for hiking only. It is an easy in difficulty trail that winds its way through giant Douglas-fir and Hemlock trees and under the Shellburg Falls. The second trail is the Shellburg Creek Trail. This trail is a moderate in difficulty multi-use trail for hiking, equestrian riding and mountain biking. It travels through lush forests, passing a variety of plants and animals along the way.

There is also a small campground nearby, facilities include picnic tables, fire rings with barbeque grills and restroom facilities. Currently there are four campsites available which are first come first serve. For visitors wanting to escape the crowds and enjoy a quiet camping trip this is an excellent location.



## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

- **Keep Oregon Green:** Where trash receptacles are not provided, pack out garbage and leave the area clean for the next visitor to enjoy.
- **Camping and Campfires:** Campfires are allowed in designated fire rings only. Camping is allowed in designated campgrounds only.
- **Use of Firearms:** Discharging firearms is prohibited. It is illegal to discharge firearms near the trails and campgrounds around Shellburg Falls. Target shooting is prohibited.
- **Off Road Vehicles:** All motor vehicles must stay on gravel roads. Motorcycles, ATVs and all other vehicles may drive on maintained roadways only.
- **Logging Operations:** Please be cautious in areas where logging is taking place. Log trucks can not stop quickly, give them the right of way.
- **Fire prevention:** Be aware of fire regulations and restrictions during fire season.



# Finding Shellburg Falls



The Shellburg Falls Recreation Area is located approximately 25 miles east of Salem near Lyons, Oregon. There are three routes which allow visitors to access Shellburg Falls.

## Access 1:

**Day-use access, walk-in only, year round access.**

From Salem drive 25 miles east to Lyons, Oregon. Once reaching Lyons take Fern Ridge Road northbound and drive 1.2 miles. Drive until you reach a yellow gate on the east side of the road, an information sign is located near the yellow gate. Vehicles may be parked in the space near the gate. Please make sure the gate is not blocked so that fire and emergency vehicles will have access. From the yellow gate hike 1.2 miles over a gravel road to reach Shellburg Falls. This road is on private land and visitors must stay on the roadway. After walking 1.2 miles you will find a small bridge with a waterfall below it, this is the lower Shellburg Falls. The lower Shellburg Falls Trailhead is located here, a trail sign gives directions to the upper Shellburg Falls.

## Access 2:

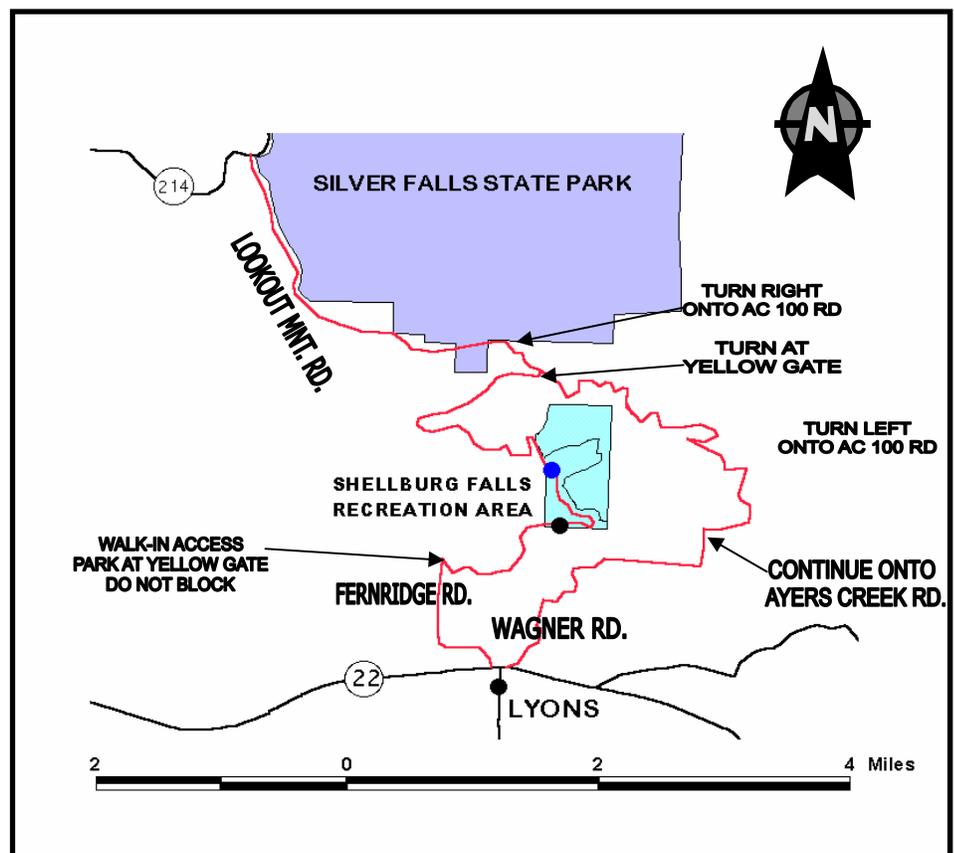
**Vehicle access, seasonal, closed October.**

This access is over steep grades for much of the way. The road is in good condition. If vehicle is in good condition, visitors will not have a problem reaching Shellburg Falls by this route. From Lyons, Oregon take Wagner Road northbound. Stay to the right and drive approximately 2.5 miles, as you drive you will notice power lines and Christmas tree farms nearby. Drive until you reach a 4 way intersection. Drive straight and do not turn, Wagner road will become Ayers Creek Road. You will follow Ayers Creek Road approximately 1 mile. You will then turn left onto the AC 100 Road. Drive 2.8 miles to the Shellburg Road. There is a yellow gate and informational sign at this intersection. Turn left from the AC 100 road onto the Shellburg Road and drive 2.6 miles until you reach the Shellburg Falls Recreation Area.

## Access 3:

**Vehicle access, seasonal, closed October.**

From Salem drive approximately 9 miles east on Highway 22 until reaching the exit for Highway 214 towards Silver Falls State Park. Take Highway 214 and drive approximately 14 miles. Before entering the main section of Silver Falls State Park you will notice an Equestrian Trailhead sign to your right. This is Trailhead 214 and the entrance to Lookout Mountain Road. Go through the trailhead and continue on Lookout Mountain Road for 3.5 miles. You will be driving through Silver Falls State Park land, Bureau of Land Management land and private land. After Driving 3.5 miles you will come to a fork in the road, turn right which will place you on the AC 100 Road. Drive less than 1/4 mile and you will reach a yellow gate and informational sign to your right. Turn right onto Shellburg Falls Road and drive 2.6 miles until you reach the Shellburg Falls Recreation Area.



# Camping at Shellburg Falls

Development of the Shellburg Falls Campground began during the summer of 2003. There are currently four campsites with picnic tables and metal fire rings, and a vault toilet is located near the campground.

During the summer and fall of 2004 a system of connector trails will be constructed linking the Shellburg Creek Trail to the Perimeter Trail of Silver Falls State Park. Construction is currently underway .

Camping at Shellburg Falls is currently free. The Oregon Department of Forestry greatly appreciates visitors cooperation in keeping the campground clean, well maintained and protecting natural resources.

## Campground Rules & Regulations



All fires must be confined within a fire ring or camp stove. No fire should be left unattended and every fire must be extinguished before leaving the campground. No standing trees, living or dead, may be cut for any purpose. Firewood gathering is limited to down and dead material two-inch or less in diameter.



Human waste must be disposed of within a restroom facility. If restrooms are not available, human waste should be buried at least to the depth of 6 inches in a location 100 feet from any water source, designated trail, or campsite.



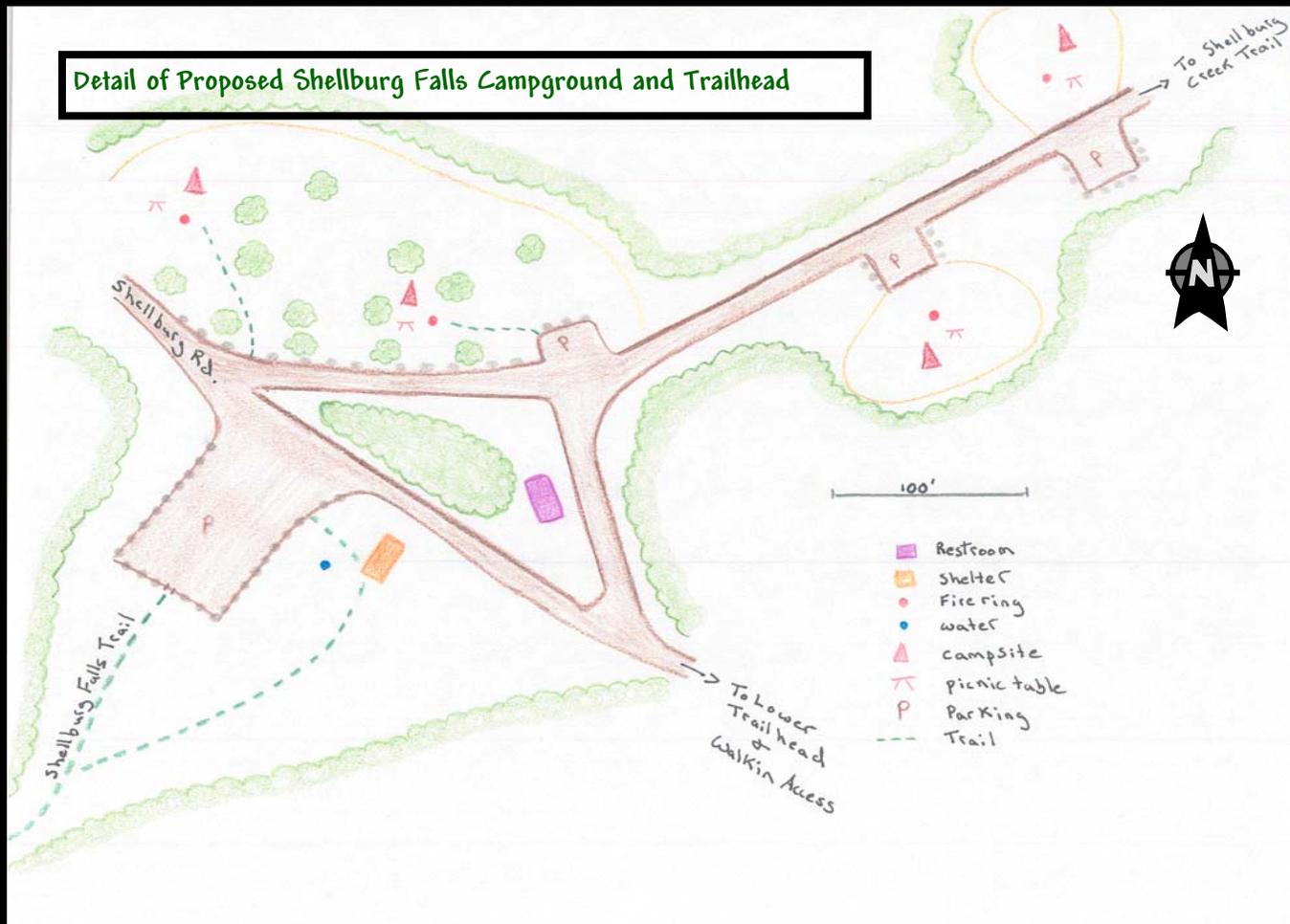
Please dispose of all refuse within the designated garbage receptacles where provided. Do not deposit any household, commercial, and industrial waste (includes appliances or flammable materials) into designated waste containers.



Limit maximum occupancy to 8 people per campsite. Please be respectful of other campers, by maintaining reasonable quiet between the hours of 10pm and 7am. Park vehicles in designated parking areas, please do not obstruct access roads.



Detail of Proposed Shellburg Falls Campground and Trailhead



## Many millions of years ago...

A vast inland sea filled the Willamette Valley covering much of Oregon. Volcanoes erupted and poured out boiling rivers of lava which helped to create and shape the prehistoric land.

Strange creatures sailed effortlessly through and above broad, shallow waters. One might have seen the shark-like Ichthyosaur, with its long pointed snout and razor sharp teeth, swimming under the waves as it hunted prey. Or the ancient flying reptile the Pteranodon soaring on warm air currents above the vast ocean.

The land changed continuously as seas rose and fell. Streams of lava sculpted the earth's surface. Below ground, giant slabs of the earth's crust called tectonic plates, crashed and collided together, rupturing into massive earthquakes further altering the landscape of Oregon. Rifts tore open throughout Oregon, Idaho and Washington and molten lava flooded out from these great fissures to spread across the land and into the sea. The lava cooled and hardened, slowly building layer upon layer of rock. These flows of lava created the Cascade Mountains, defined the current ocean shore and formed the foundation for modern day Oregon.

These processes took place from over 100-2 million years ago. During this time the earth saw the coming of the dinosaurs. Who once thundered and marched across the land ruling their kingdom for many millions of years. And it saw their extinction as well. It welcomed the beginning of the age of mammals. Huge, mastodons, giant ground sloths (who weighed over a ton) and even giant beavers (who grew eight feet in length) once lived in Oregon. But like the dinosaurs these great creatures slipped into extinction as well. With the coming of the ice age Oregon was covered under a blanket of ice and snow. Many of those massive creatures which once thrived could not keep their huge bodies warm during the relentless cold.

The ice melted and blizzards turned to rain. Forests and meadows grew covering Oregon in a lush green carpet. Rivers and streams shaped channels and carved the ancient lava rock into the landscape we see today. Water etched and chipped away at the streambeds to create pools and waterfalls. Humans built cities, highways, and roads into the forest. And paths to waterfalls, like the path to Shellburg Falls.

Look closely and you may see a small rough skinned newt hiding in the peaceful, quiet shadows along the Shellburg Falls trail. Maybe it is a distant relative to creatures whom witnessed a much more turbulent past.



**Rough-skinned Newt**

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For Recreation Questions Call: 503-859-4344