

Columbia Gorge Wilderness

McCall Point Addition

Wasco County
1,000 acres
Mount Hood National Forest

Description:

McCall Point is located above the Rowena Plateau within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. West of Hood River in the “middle” Columbia Gorge, McCall Point offers breathtaking views overlooking the Columbia River and contains some of the most outstanding wildflower diversity in the entire Gorge. In addition to the area’s easily accessible oak

woodlands, surrounding fields of yellow balsamroot sunflowers and deep blue lupine, the area contains over 300 species of wildflowers and at least four that exist only in the Columbia Gorge. The proposed Wilderness Area adjoins additional “roadless” lands in Mayer State Park and The Nature Conservancy’s Tom McCall Preserve. Recent land purchases by The Nature Conservancy and the US Forest Service around McCall Point and the Rowena Plateau attest to the area’s ecological importance.

Ecological, geological, and scenic value:

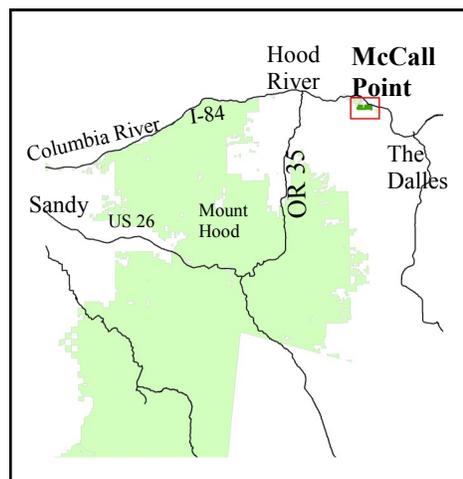
Northern Oregon’s oak woodlands are increasingly scarce, and very few oak woodlands are protected on federal lands in Oregon, making this area an important addition to Oregon’s wilderness system. The area’s advantages include remarkable scenic beauty, incredible biological diversity, and easy public access and general proximity to the Portland metropolitan area. McCall Point’s impressive array of native plants includes four species unique to the Gorge: Thompson’s broadleaf lupine, Columbia desert parsley, Thompson’ waterleaf, and Hood River Milkvetch.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation:

Hiking and family outings are popular within the McCall Point proposed Wilderness area. Numerous hiking trails are available, and can be accessed year-round.

Threats:

While the McCall Point area has some minimal protections under federal law, this natural treasure is not completely safe from logging and development.



McCall Point—Photo by Wendell Wood. Inset photo by Sue Parsons.