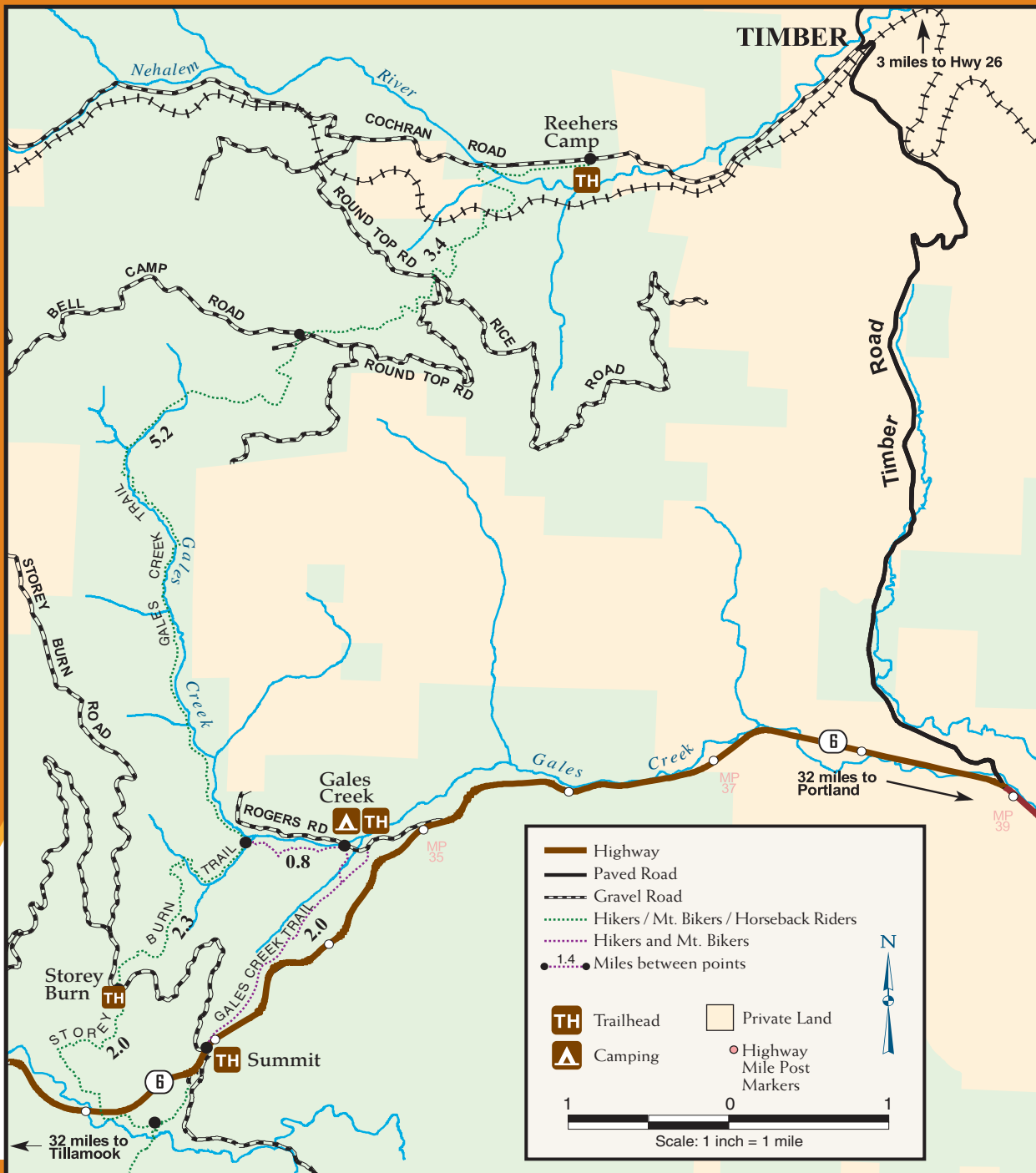


# Tillamook State Forest TRAIL GUIDE Gales Creek Trail



## Gales Creek Trail



### Be Prepared

- Let someone know your plans
- Lock your vehicle
- Read trailhead signs
- Pack plenty of water

### Protect the Forest

- Stay on designated trails
- Share the trail
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Check current fire conditions



### For More Information

Oregon Department of Forestry  
 Forest Grove District Office  
 801 Gales Creek Road  
 Forest Grove, OR 97116  
 (503) 357-2191  
 Recorded Recreation Hotline (503) 359-7402  
[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

### \*\*CAUTION\*\*

Use extra caution when driving on single-lane gravel roads in the forest. Drive slowly and watch for truck traffic. Be prepared for changing trail and weather conditions, steep terrain and loose rock.

LENGTH: 11.4 miles  
 DIFFICULTY: Moderate



**Summit Trailhead to Storey Burn Trail junction** – 2.8 miles



**Storey Burn Trail junction to Reehers Camp Trailhead** – 8.6 miles

## TRAIL INFORMATION

### Trailhead Access

This trail may be reached from several trailheads. Horseback riders can access the Gales Creek Trail from either Reehers Camp Trailhead or Storey Burn Trail via Storey Burn Trailhead. There is no equestrian access from Gales Creek Trailhead.

### Summit Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 to milepost 33. The trailhead is located on the north side of the highway.

### Gales Creek Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 to milepost 35, and follow the signs one mile to Gales Creek Campground. Please drive with caution on the single lane gravel road. The trailhead is located on the left before entering the campground.

### Reehers Camp Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 or Highway 26 to the Timber Road junction. Follow Timber Road to the town of Timber. Turn west onto Cochran Road and travel 2.5 miles to the trailhead just past Reehers Camp Campground.

### Storey Burn Trailhead

Travel on Highway 6 to milepost 33 and turn north onto Storey Burn Road. Follow Storey Burn Road 1.8 miles to the trailhead sign, and take the short spur road to the left to reach the trailhead.

### About the Trail

The Gales Creek Trail is 11.4 miles from Summit Trailhead to Reehers Camp Trailhead. The trail may also be accessed from Gales Creek and Storey Burn trailheads. Hikers and mountain bikers can enjoy a loop trail option by combining sections of the Gales Creek Trail with the Storey Burn Trail.

### From Summit Trailhead to Gales Creek Trailhead

This section is open to hikers and mountain bikers, and offers an easy two mile descent to Gales Creek Campground. The beginning section of trail drops into the creek canyon as it crosses the slope above Low Divide Creek. The trail winds through a young forest lush with undergrowth even after the driest summer. Much of this area was burned by the first and largest fire of the Tillamook Burn in 1933, which started east of Gales Creek Campground. In the spring and summer devil's club, a shrub with giant leaves and thorns covering its stem, lines the paths. Near the campground visitors may choose to go left downhill to the Low Divide Loop Trail, reaching the Gales Creek trailhead in 0.1 mile, or continue straight and end on Rogers Road near the day use area. Along either route, remnants of a railroad trestle that extended one-half mile across the valley are present. The trestle carried trains hauling burned, black trees during the salvage efforts after the fires that once devastated this area.

### From Gales Creek Trailhead to Reehers Camp Trailhead

Hikers and mountain bikers will find this section of trail beginning at the west end of the trailhead near the bridge. For the first 0.8 mile, the trail traverses a fern-covered slope above Gales Creek. After crossing two log bridges, Gales Creek Trail meets Storey Burn Trail where the use changes to include horses. Visitors may choose to continue on Gales Creek Trail toward Reehers Camp, or for a loop option take Storey Burn Trail (see Storey Burn Trail Guide).

The route from the Storey Burn Trail junction runs north 5.2 miles to Bell Camp Road and continues from there another 3.4 miles to reach Reehers Camp Trailhead. Visitors will enjoy this remote and scenic



*Devil's Club*

elevation and crossing several side creeks that offer views of small waterfalls. At the 3.0 mile point the trail meets a large landslide covered with a thick grove of young alder trees. The landslide occurred during the winter flood of 1996. Beyond the slide, the trail crosses Gales Creek twice in 0.5 mile. During the driest part of the summer, look for segments of the creek through here that disappear underground and reappear 100 feet downstream. After the second crossing, the trail passes over a debris flow deposit left from a tributary stream during the flood of 1996.

In the remaining 2.2 miles to Bell Camp Road, the trail traverses a third log bridge and passes through a small clearing that was an old logging mill site. The last mile climbs steeply as it pulls away from the headwaters of Gales Creek.

From Bell Camp Road it is 3.4 miles to Reehers Camp. Blacktail deer graze on shrubs and trains occasionally echo through the valley below. After passing an open area, visitors will find themselves in a land of snags. These standing dead trees are both young and old. The large, charred snags are old survivors of the Tillamook Burn, while the younger trees were topped

section of the Tillamook State Forest. Over the next two miles much of the trail is located on an overgrown road grade used to haul timber during the salvage operations following the Tillamook Burn fires. It stays close to Gales Creek, gradually gaining

with a saw to provide additional wildlife habitat. At 1.7 miles from Bell Camp Road the trail levels off in a grove of alders, crosses Round Top Road and intersects with the Port of Tillamook Bay Railroad line. The last 1.7 miles weave through shaded, moist areas and cross a small stream before emerging onto a side road. Follow this to Cochran Road and continue over the bridge to pick up the final 0.5 mile to Reehers Camp Trailhead.

## Tillamook Treasures

### Riparian Areas

Forest riparian areas include streams, rivers and the land on either side. These areas are important due to the variety of plants and animals living in and near the water's edge. Plants growing near stream banks provide erosion control, filter sediment, stabilize banks and create shade. The Oregon Department of Forestry manages riparian areas to maintain water quality and fish habitat.

