



# Reflections

The official newspaper  
of Crater Lake National Park

Winter 2001-2002



## A Centennial in the Making

by Steve Mark and Kevin Bacher

THIS SPRING, CRATER LAKE WILL CELEBRATE ONE HUNDRED YEARS as a National Park. The anniversary we celebrate, however, is only one milestone in a long history of efforts to explore, honor, and protect this landscape.

Native American tribes were almost certainly present when Mount Mazama erupted 7,700 years ago. For generations, tribal members traveled to Crater Lake for cultural and spiritual purposes. It remains significant to local tribes today.

American settlers stumbled across the lake in 1853. The first explorers were prospectors and, later, soldiers from nearby Fort Klamath. Word of the magnificent blue lake began to spread.

The campaign to establish Crater Lake National Park began in 1885. William Gladstone Steel and three companions, including an army officer named Clarence Dutton, made the long trek to the lake, and were amazed by its beauty. That night, at their campsite, they discussed making it a national park.

The idea became a passion for Steel. He organized a petition requesting that the President withdraw the area around Crater Lake from settlement, mining, and timber claims while Congress considered the merits of establishing a national park. Within a year the petition arrived in Washington, D.C. On February 1, 1886 President Grover Cleveland ordered that ten townships of unsurveyed



public domain be withdrawn from entry. It represented a guess at what might be suitable for a national park.

Crater Lake and its surroundings needed to be examined in greater depth, so Dutton and Steel organized a government-sponsored expedition during the summer of 1886. While some of the expedition's members began mapping the topography around the lake, others obtained depth measurements, the deepest an incredible 1,996 feet.

Dutton and Steel's expedition generated considerable publicity, but seemed to have little effect on Congress. Numerous bills introduced between 1886 and 1898 died because of considerable opposition. The primary issue was not Crater Lake's worthiness, nor even the exploitation of natural resources, but the fact that many in Congress saw national parks as a drain on the Treasury.

Congress did, however, pass legislation in 1891 allowing the president to proclaim "forest reserves" from any forested land still in

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### Welcome!

Winter is a quiet time at Crater Lake. Behind the scenes, though, our staff is preparing for a celebration. This spring, Crater Lake National Park will turn one hundred years old.

A wide range of activities are being planned. In May, receptions will be held in local communities. A Centennial Celebration will be held in the park itself on August 25. An exhibit at the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland from late June to early October, followed by an interdisciplinary symposium at Southern Oregon University in October, will celebrate the many ways that Crater Lake continues to inspire us.

Meanwhile, a touring drama and special publications will commemorate the long effort to establish a national park. A special Centennial license plate will be available for Oregon residents.

It will be an exciting year! We hope you can join us during this very special time.

Meanwhile, enjoy the quiet winter scenery. The wild beauty, so evident this time of year, is what inspired so many to work so hard on behalf of this magnificent place.

Charles V. Lundy  
Superintendent,  
Crater Lake National Park

### 2-3 Exploring

Winter turns most of Crater Lake National Park into a snowy wilderness, ideal for both day-trippers and backcountry visitors. Breathtaking scenery and opportunities for solitude abound.

### 4 Winter Services

Winter is a quiet time at Crater Lake National Park. No overnight lodging and extremely limited food services are available in the park during the winter.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Crater Lake National Park

For generations, people have been awed by the spectacular beauty and intense blue color of Crater Lake. Five miles wide and ringed by cliffs almost 2,000 feet high, the lake rests in the shattered remnants of an ancient volcano, which erupted and collapsed into itself 7,700 years ago. 1,943 feet deep at its deepest point, it is one of the deepest lakes in the world, and contains some of the world's purest water. Pristine forests and deep canyons blanket the mountain's outer slopes.

**Superintendent**  
Charles V. Lundy

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 7  
Crater Lake, OR 97604

**Park Information**  
541 594-3100

**Emergencies**  
Dial 911

**Web Site**  
[www.nps.gov/crla](http://www.nps.gov/crla)

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

# Exploring on Skis or Snowshoes

## BEGINNING SKIER TRAILS

### Wizard Island Overlook

The most popular ski trail in the park, this gently rolling route follows the park's west rim drive and provides spectacular views of Crater Lake.

Round-trip to Discovery Point: 2 miles; to Wizard Island Overlook: 5 miles (8 km)

### Mazama Village Loop

This loop through Mazama Village provides easy, flat skiing conditions for beginners. The trail begins just north of the park's entrance station.

Round-trip: 1 mile (1.6 km)

## INTERMEDIATE SKIER TRAILS

### Hemlock Trail

This rolling trail wanders through an ancient Mountain Hemlock forest, and features views of Crater Lake and the Klamath Basin.

Round-trip: 2 miles (3.2 km)

### Sun Notch Trail

This is a good alternative to skiing along the caldera rim when the winds are strong. Sun Notch offers a spectacular view of Crater Lake, and directly overlooks the Phantom Ship. During high avalanche danger, use the marked avalanche bypass route.

Round-trip: 10 miles (16 km)

## ADVANCED SKIER TRAILS

### Raven Trail

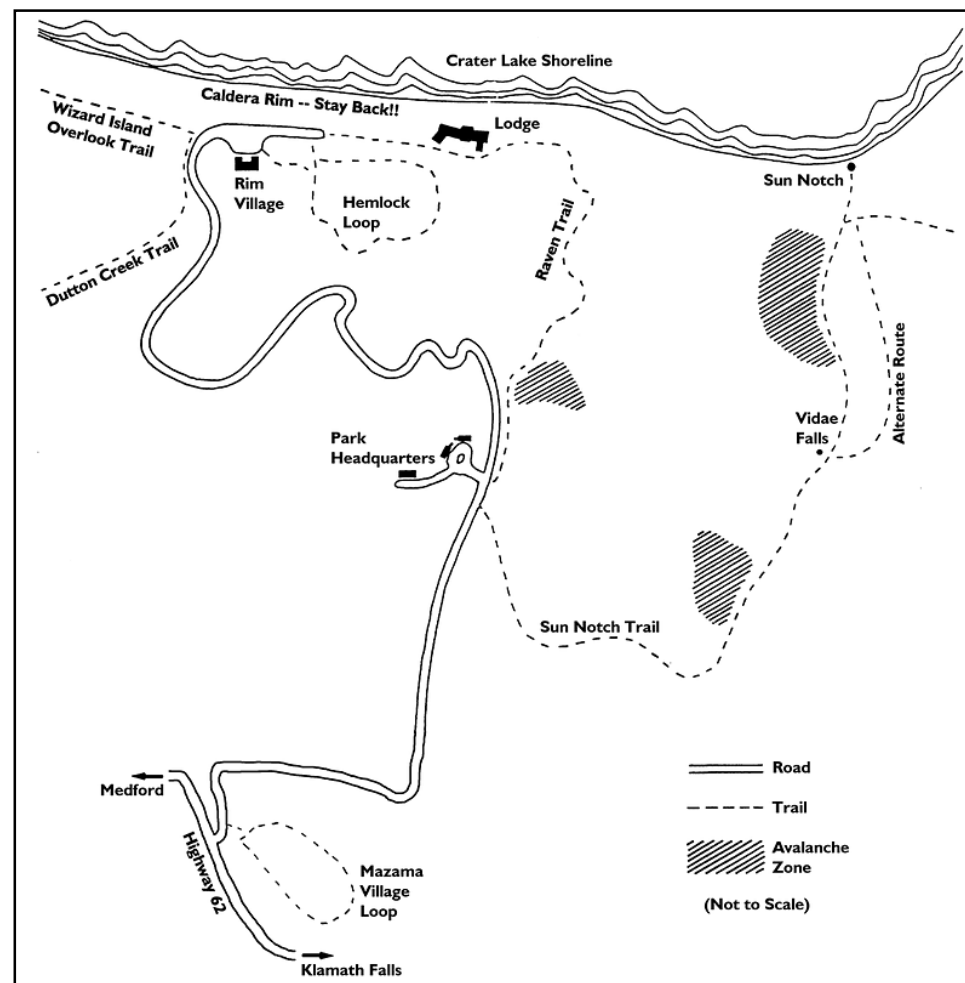
Beginning immediately east of Crater Lake Lodge at Rim Village, this trail is a favorite with telemark skiers as it descends steeply to park headquarters. Exercise caution on the avalanche slope near the bottom.

One-way: 1 mile (1.6 km)

### Dutton Creek

This trail descends steeply and includes several sharp turns as it winds toward the area of Annie Springs and Mazama Village.

One-way: 4.5 miles (7.2 km)



## Winter Can Be Hazardous. Be Prepared!

### Be Safe!

The park's winter weather can be beautiful, but dangerous. Sudden snowstorms, cold temperatures, and icy road conditions may create hazards for unprepared visitors. Following park regulations will help to ensure you a safe visit:

- ❄ Keep a safe distance from the rim of the caldera. Hazards include steep, slippery slopes and hidden snow cornices. Entering the caldera is extremely dangerous and is strictly prohibited.
- ❄ Please use plowed parking lots and do not park along the roadways. Overnight car camping in parking lots is not permitted.
- ❄ Do not use roadside snow banks as snow play areas.
- ❄ Do not feed or disturb wildlife.
- ❄ Pets must be on leash, and are not allowed beyond plowed roads and parking lots.
- ❄ Free backcountry permits are required for all overnight trips.

### Proper Planning Can Save Your Life

Proper planning and preparation are important before heading into the backcountry. Inquire at park visitor centers for current weather, avalanche, and snow conditions.

It's easy to get lost during snowstorms. White-out situations may occur and rapidly falling snow can quickly cover your tracks. In an emergency, you might have to stay in the backcountry longer than planned... possibly overnight.

Carry extra gear necessary to survive an unplanned night out. Always include the following in your daypack:

- ❄ Map and compass
- ❄ Waterproof clothing
- ❄ Extra gloves and socks
- ❄ Plenty of water
- ❄ High energy food

## Friends Support Crater Lake National Park

### Crater Lake Natural History Association

The Crater Lake Natural History Association, established in 1942, is a private, non-profit organization that supports interpretive programs and research at Crater Lake National Park. The Association derives its funds through the sales of interpretive, educational and informational publications at the park's visitor centers.

For information and mail orders, contact:

Crater Lake Natural History Association  
P.O. Box 157  
Crater Lake, OR 97604  
(541) 594-3110

### The Crater Lake Ski Patrol

We are fortunate to have a group of dedicated volunteers from local communities to assist park staff with trail patrol, search and rescue, and medical emergencies. Members of the Crater Lake Ski Patrol can be identified by their bright red parkas and hats with the ski patrol emblem. Feel free to contact them for help with any problems or questions you might have.

For further information on ski patrol activities or volunteering, please write to:

Crater Lake Ski Patrol  
P.O. Box 7  
Crater Lake, OR 97604

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# Planning a Winter Backcountry Trip

Winter turns most of Crater Lake National Park into a snowy wilderness from November through May. For the well-prepared, winter offers skiers and snowshoers occasions of unique beauty and unparalleled opportunities for solitude.

Opportunities for wilderness overnight camping are abundant during the winter. Snow camping is required, as there are no shelters anywhere in the backcountry. Advanced skiers may even consider skiing around Crater Lake. Most people take three days to complete this 30-mile (48-km) loop, if not delayed by storms. Only experienced and properly equipped skiers should attempt this trip.

## BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

All overnight campers must obtain a free backcountry permit, available from a ranger at the Steel Information Center or the Canfield Building (Ranger Station), in the Park Headquarters area, during regular hours of operation (*see back page*). The ranger on duty will inform you of the current weather forecast, avalanche hazards, and parking information. You will need to provide a detailed itinerary, list of supplies, and emergency contact information.

## HAZARDS AND LOGISTICS

Winter can be a hazardous time in the backcountry. Be prepared for any type of weather, including blizzards with white-out conditions which may require you to extend your trip.

Snow avalanches are also a danger in many places. The National Park Service recommends that you carry snow shovels, probe poles, and avalanche cords or beacons if you plan to circle the lake or travel in other areas with high avalanche danger. Avalanche bypass routes are available around many hazardous areas; ask a ranger for details. The route behind Watchman Peak is often windswept and icy; be especially cautious in this area, and ask about current conditions.

Blowing snow forms fragile cornices along the edge of the caldera. Stay well back from the edge to avoid breaking through.

None of Crater Lake National Park's ski trails are groomed, and route-finding in the backcountry is often difficult. Bring a detailed topographic map and compass, and know how to use them.

Emergency telephones are located on the outside of the cafeteria building at Rim Village and on the snow tunnel leading into the administration building at Park Headquarters. It's also a good idea to bring a signal mirror or whistle for emergency use.

The road from headquarters to Rim Village is plowed regularly. However, due to heavy snowfall this section of road is often closed for hours or days at a time. You may need to ski along the Raven Trail to get to Rim Village or to return to your car.

Note that no running water is accessible in the backcountry during the winter. Bring a camp stove for melting snow.

## BACKCOUNTRY REGULATIONS

Winter camping regulations are intended to ensure your safety and minimum impact on Crater Lake's resources. Please observe the following guidelines:

- \* No camping or travel is permitted within the caldera.
- \* Pack out all trash.
- \* Campfires are not permitted. Bring a camp stove.
- \* Parties are limited to eight people. Larger groups must split up.
- \* Pets are not permitted in the backcountry.
- \* No camping is permitted within a mile of any plowed road, within 100 feet of any meadow with less than one foot of snow cover, or within sight or sound of any trail or other camping party.



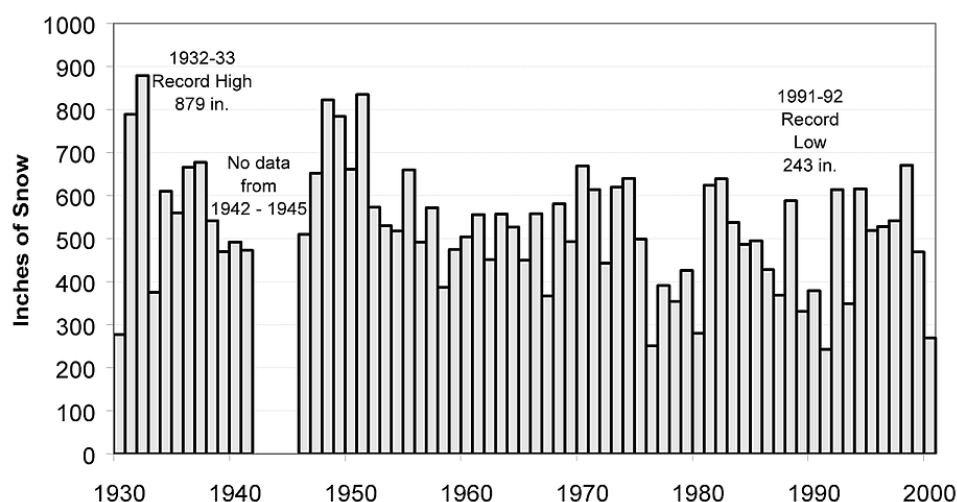
## Winter Weather

FROM OCTOBER TO JUNE, CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK IS A SNOW-COVERED WILDERNESS. November through April are frequently snowy with poor visibility and poor driving conditions. At the same time, winter provides wonderful skiing and snowshoeing opportunities and, on clear days, some of the most magnificent scenery of the year.

With snowfall still lingering on the ground in early July, winter defines Crater Lake National Park more than any other season. Snowfall averages 533 inches (1,350 cm) annually, and by early spring, it is typical to have ten to fifteen feet (4 meters) of snow on the ground. While snowfall is common in the Cascade Mountains, Crater Lake National Park is one of the snowiest areas in the Northwest where regular records are kept.

The National Park Service began recording weather information at Crater Lake National Park headquarters in 1926. The winter of 1932-1933 still holds the record for total snowfall in a single season, with 879 inches (2,230 cm). In 1950, Crater Lake set a state record for snowfall in a single calendar year, with 903 inches (2,294 cm). The most snow ever recorded on the ground at Park Headquarters was 21 feet (6.4 meters), on April 3, 1983.

Typical winter temperatures range from a high of about 35°F (2°C) to an overnight low around 19°F (-7°C).



## A Centennial in the Making

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the public domain. In 1893 President Cleveland established the Cascade Range Forest Reserve, including Crater Lake.

Finally, when Theodore Roosevelt came to the White House in 1901, things began to change. Steel wrote another petition, col-

lected 4,000 signatures, and solicited enthusiastic endorsements from prominent figures, including Gifford Pinchot, the new President's leading advisor on conservation and public lands. Pinchot spoke with Roosevelt personally about the latest Crater Lake bill, and the President expressed

his support to key members of Congress. On May 22, 1902, the bill became law and Crater Lake at last became a national park.

A century later, scientists continue to explore Crater Lake, and people from around the world continue to be inspired

by its beauty. The National Park Service protects the lake and its surroundings. Some of the challenges have changed, but the original purpose remains: to forever preserve the beauty of Crater Lake National Park, and its unique ecological and cultural heritage.



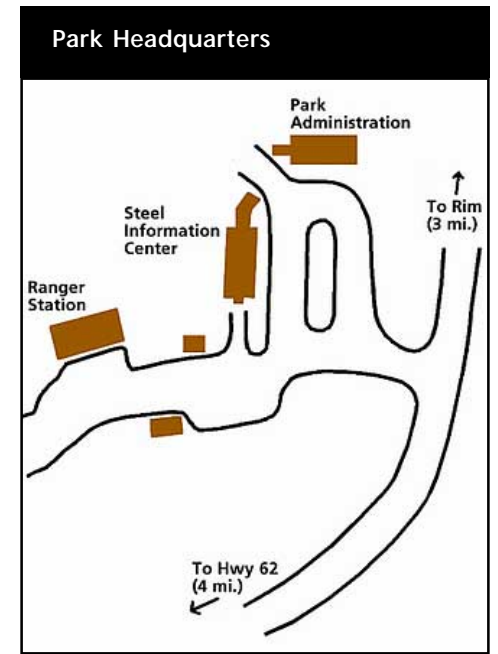
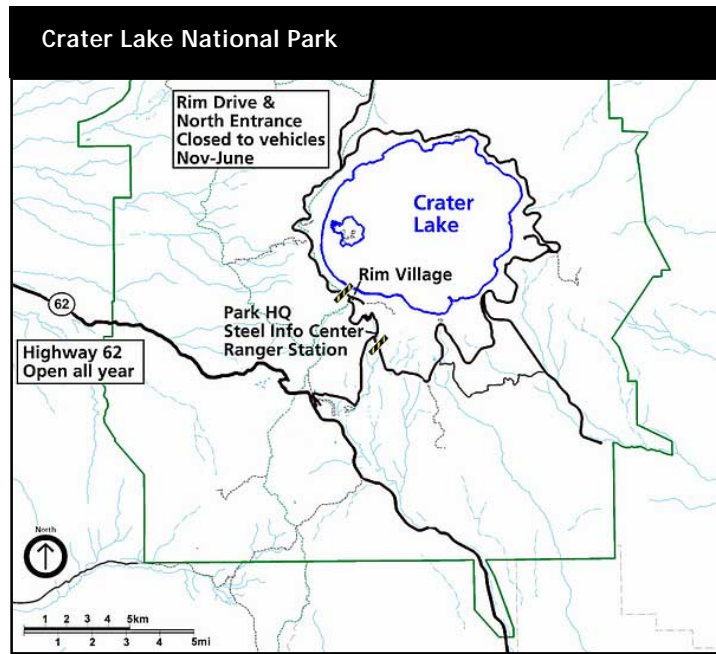
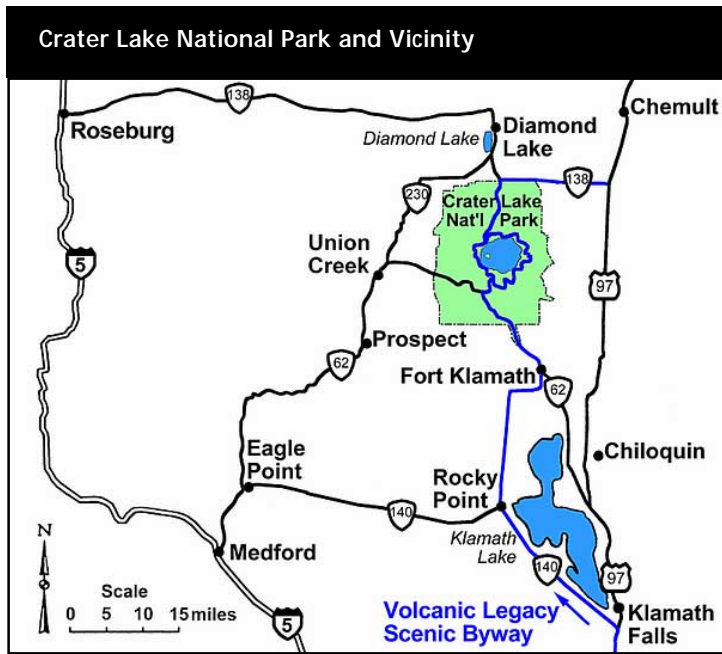
National Park Service  
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



# Winter Services, Facilities, and Travel

## VISITOR INFORMATION

For information, stop at the Steel Information Center at Park Headquarters, three miles below Rim Village. A ranger is available from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily, except Christmas day, to provide assistance, answer questions, and write backcountry permits. Visitors may also watch a 16-minute film and buy books, postcards, snacks, and other items for sale by the Crater Lake Natural History Association.

## FOOD SERVICE

Crater Lake National Park is currently in transition to a new concession service. For most of the winter, complete food service will not be available in the park. Snacks and hot drinks are available for sale by the Crater Lake Natural History Association at the Steel Information Center.

## CRATER LAKE LODGE

The historic Crater Lake Lodge will open for the summer season on May 20, 2002. This winter, Crater Lake National Park is in transition to a new concession service. During the transition period, reservations for the lodge may still be made by calling (541) 830-8700.

## BACKCOUNTRY PERMITS

Backcountry permits are required for overnight camping. Visitors may obtain permits at the Steel Information Center from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, or at the Ranger Station from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Winter backcountry travel can be hazardous. When you register for a permit, be sure to ask for up to date information about avalanche hazards and a current weather forecast.

## RANGER-LED PROGRAMS

Join a ranger or volunteer for an ecology walk on snowshoes! Walks for the public begin at 1:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays from Thanksgiving through the end of March. Walks last about 1½ hours, and are limited to 30 people. Sign up at the Steel Information Center. Snowshoes are provided free of charge. Snowshoeing requires minimal skills, but participants should be in good physical condition. Due to the strenuous nature of the walk, we recommend children be at least eight years old.

In addition to the regularly scheduled walks, school groups and other organiza-

tions may make reservations for walks at other times by calling (541) 594-3091.

## OTHER VISITOR SERVICES

A U.S. Post Office, located in the Steel Information Center at Park Headquarters, is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. No lodging, dining, gasoline, or equipment rentals are available in the park during the winter. These services may be found in communities surrounding the park.

## WINTER TRAVEL

During the winter (typically from late October through mid-June), the North Entrance to Crater Lake National Park and the Rim Drive around Crater Lake are closed because of deep snow. Visitors must enter the park from the south or west on Highway 62.

The road to Rim Village is plowed daily. From there, Crater Lake can be viewed on clear days throughout the winter. However, due to heavy snowfall, it is sometimes necessary to close the road between park headquarters and Rim Village for hours or even days at time.

"Spring opening," the clearing of snow from Rim Drive before summer, begins in mid-April. Road crews usually reach the park's north entrance about mid-June. The Rim Drive is usually open all the way around Crater Lake by sometime in July.

## DRIVE CAREFULLY!

Road conditions vary, but can often be icy or snowpacked. Be alert to current driving conditions and come prepared with traction tires or chains. Gasoline is not available in the park until late May. Remember to fill up your tank at one of the nearby towns (Chemult, Chiloquin, Diamond Lake, Fort Klamath, or Prospect) before entering the park.

## DRIVING DISTANCES IN WINTER

Klamath Falls	60 miles	100 km
Medford	80 miles	130 km
Roseburg	130 miles	210 km
Bend	145 miles	235 km
Eugene	180 miles	290 km
Portland	300 miles	485 km
San Francisco	450 miles	725 km
Seattle	475 miles	765 km