

Northern Waterthrushes breed. When you reach the resort (in about 1 mile), walk down to the dock. A spotting scope can be of great help in finding Red-necked Grebes, usually present from April to November. Benewah Lake is one of this species' Idaho strongholds.

Backtrack to ID 5. Other views of Benewah Lake are possible at pull-outs along ID 5, at mileposts 10.7 and 10.6. Red-necked Grebes, Wood Ducks, and Ospreys can be seen here during summer, while large waterfowl flocks are present during migration and winter. Common Terns are possible during fall.

Cottonwood Point Picnic Area is at milepost 8.3 along ID 5. Watch for the sign pointing out this tiny public picnic ground on the right (north). Western Wood-Pewees, Winter Wrens, Northern Waterthrushes, and Fox Sparrows nest here. Interesting migrants have included Bewick's Wrens, Brown Creepers, and White-throated Sparrows. During migration and winter, Bald Eagles and waterfowl congregate at this spot, and it is usually possible to find a Eurasian Wigeon or two and a few Greater Scaup.

The best place from which to scope Chatcolet Lake is Rocky Point Marina (milepost 7.3). Scan the lake from docks at either end of the marina. Although productive during migration and winter, Chatcolet Lake supports few summer birds because of its heavy recreational boat traffic.

After leaving Rocky Point Marina, continue west on ID 5 about one mile to milepost 6.3. Turn right (north) on Conkling Park Road (a.k.a. Chatcolet Road), and go 0.9 mile to Plummer Creek bridge. Plummer Creek marsh, which borders the bridge, is used by breeding Red-necked Grebes, Ospreys, Soras, and Marsh Wrens, and attracted vagrant Swamp Sparrows in the winters of 1992 and 1994. The flat, 0.6-mile-long Plummer Creek Trail shadows Plummer Creek upstream from the bridge. Its terminus is on Conkling Park Road, 0.2 mile north of Plummer Creek bridge. Olive-sided,

Willow, and Cordilleran Flycatchers, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Swainson's and Varied Thrushes, and Townsend's Warblers are common breeders. Bared Owls are often heard hooting. Bewick's Wrens, American Dippers, and American Tree Sparrows are among the more unusual winter birds occasionally found along the trail. The gated Fire Control Road next to the trailhead can also be walked, but its twisty path may get you lost!

Continuing north on Conkling Park Road, you'll cross railroad tracks 0.3 mile north of Plummer Creek bridge. On the left (west) side of the road, is Indian Cliffs Trailhead. This 3-mile-long hiking trail is classified as moderate-to-steep; it accesses open Ponderosa Pine habitat, which attracts Pileated Woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatches, Townsend's Solitaires, Pine Grosbeaks (winter), and Red Crossbills. Watch for Hammond's Flycatchers and MacGillivray's and Yellow-rumped Warblers along the trail's lower portion.

OTHER:

For more information, stop in at park headquarters, located 0.1 mile north of Indian Cliffs Trailhead. St. Maries is a full-service community. Heyburn SP (208/686-1308) has a full-service campground. See also St. Maries to Harrison Route, the previous site, and St. Joe Route, below.

ST. JOE ROUTE

Authors: Dan Svingen, Kas Dumroese

Site P-16 — Map P-16

Highlights: Tundra Swan, Northern Pygmy-Owl

Major Habitats: Deciduous Forest, Wetland

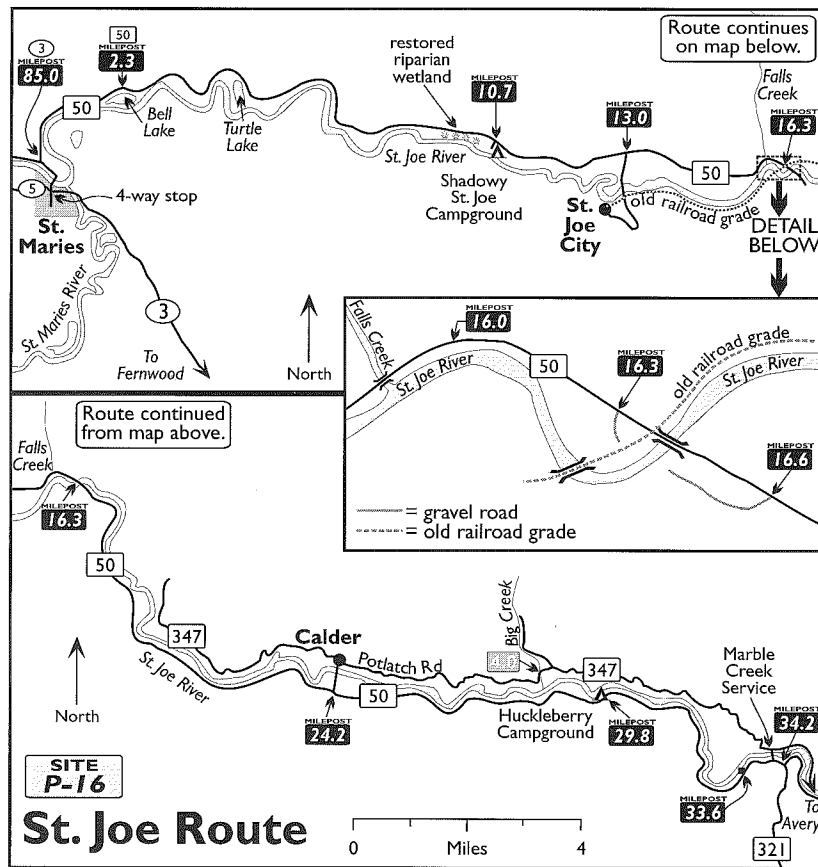
Location: Benewah Co., St. Maries

Spring: *** **Summer:** *** **Fall:** ** **Winter:** **

This 40-mile-long drive will take you up the Shadowy St. Joe, the highest navigable river in the world. Tugboats work the river weekly, pulling huge "brails" of timber down to sawmills in Post Falls, 80 miles away. This route's unique birding opportunities center around the deep, waterlily-filled wetlands and cottonwood forest associated with this historic river.

DIRECTIONS:

The route begins in St. Maries, at the junction of ID 3 and ID 5 (the 4-way stop adjacent to the Exxon Station). From here, take ID 3 north across the St. Joe River and follow it as it curves west. At milepost 85, turn right (north) toward Avery on Forest Highway (FH) 50 (a.k.a. St. Joe Road).



BIRDING:

At FH 50 milepost 2.3 you'll pass St. Maries Concrete. Pull over and quickly scan Bell Lake. Although often unproductive birdwise, Bell Lake has attracted American Bitterns and Great Egrets (rare) during summer.

St. Maries Wild Rice is a highly praised culinary delight available in local grocery stores. Part of the crop is raised in the flooded field at milepost 3.4. Pull-outs are available at milepost 3.6 (north side of road) and 4.0 (south side of road). During spring, these fields host large waterfowl flocks, including hundreds of Tundra Swans, Cinnamon Teal, Barrow's Goldeneyes, and usually a Eurasian Wigeon or two.

At milepost 5 you may want to stop and quickly scan Turtle Lake, which is similar to Bell Lake. Better birding, however, is available just down the road at milepost 8. The second flooded rice field here can be scanned from the pull-out on the right (south) side of the road.

The FS, Washington Water Power, and Federal Highway Administration have restored a riparian wetland on the south side of the road at milepost 10.5. You can access this area by parking at Shadowy St. Joe Campground (see below) and walking in. The wetland should be checked for American Bitterns, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Soras, and Marsh Wrens.

At milepost 10.7, turn right (south) into Shadowy St. Joe Campground. A quick walk around this small site will usually reveal common summer residents: Western Wood-Pewees, Violet-green Swallows, Red-eyed Vireos, and Cedar Waxwings.

All along this route, but especially between mileposts 11 and 13, scan small trees and utility poles for Northern Pygmy-Owls. Your best bet for finding these tiny raptors is very early in the morning or at dusk, November to March. This is one of the most dependable spots for the species in Idaho. During irruption years, up to five owls can be seen along this short stretch of road.

The richest habitat along this route is the riparian cottonwood forest, best accessed along the abandoned railroad grade paralleling the St. Joe River. The rail line was decommissioned years ago, but the grade has been used as a road ever since, with portions incorporated into the highway. Most of the grade is open in summer. To detour along the railroad grade, turn right (south) at milepost 13, toward St. Joe City. After 0.7 mile, you'll cross the St. Joe River. Turn left (east) onto the gravel road along the river's south bank. This road passes by several stands of riparian forest, hosting a variety of birds. Regular species include Wild Turkey, Western Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Western Wood-Pewee, Eastern Kingbird, Mountain Bluebird, Veery, Gray Catbird, Warbling Vireo, Townsend's Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, MacGillivray's Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Fox Sparrow. Watch for Bewick's Wren, too.

If you don't detour through St. Joe City, and instead continue east on FH 50, you'll pass over Falls Creek at milepost 15.8. Just east of Falls Creek, at milepost 16.3, a gravel road leaves on the right (south) side and descends to the St. Joe River. If the gate is open, you can access the railroad grade here. Turning right (southwest) will take you over a narrow bridge and then to St. Joe City in 3 miles. Turning left (northeast) will take you upstream one mile, where the railroad grade is typically blocked-off at a turn-around. You can also access a 40-acre tract of riparian forest by staying on FH 50 until milepost 16.6, then turning right (south) as soon as you cross the large concrete bridge. The 0.1-mile gravel road descends to the river and the riparian forest.

Big Eddy Cafe at milepost 19.2 is a useful landmark. During early morning and late evening, scattered herds of White-tailed Deer and Wapiti (American Elk) feed on grassy hillsides across the river.

At milepost 24.2 is the turn-off to Calder. By going left (north), you can again access the railroad grade along the St. Joe River. To get to the railroad grade, drive 0.4 mile toward Calder. As soon as you cross the bridge, turn right (east) onto the grade (Potlatch Road) and continue toward Big Creek.

This road passes through a short rock tunnel (watch for Rock Wrens), before taking you back across the river and rejoining FH 50 at Marble Creek Service in 9.5 miles (see below). Examples of good riparian habitat can be found at mileposts 1 and 8. On the dry brushy hillsides above, watch and listen for Wild Turkeys, Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-crowned Warblers, Lazuli Buntings, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Chipping Sparrows. At Potlatch Road milepost 4, you'll cross Big Creek, where Spotted Sandpipers and American Dippers are regular.

If you didn't take the Calder turn-off, continue east along FH 50 toward Avery. Huckleberry Campground at milepost 29.8 offers primitive camping and access to the St. Joe River. Common Mergansers, Spotted Sandpipers, Belted Kingfishers, Willow Flycatchers, and American Dippers are usually present along this river stretch, especially from May to August.

The St. Joe Lodge and Resort at milepost 33.6 provides meals, gas, camping, and rental cabins. Hummingbird feeders on the back porch attract Black-chinned, Calliope, Rufous, and, occasionally, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. Western Screech-Owls nest in the large Western Redcedars and Black Cottonwoods.

If you drove the railroad grade east of Calder, you rejoin FH 50 at Marble Creek Service, a small cafe at milepost 34.2. Continue east 0.2 mile to the mouth of Marble Creek and the start of FR 321. An interpretative building explains the historic logging that occurred in the area. American Dippers are usually present along Marble Creek, and shy Harlequin Ducks may be seen occasionally, May through August.

OTHER:

St. Maries is a full-service community. See also St. Maries to Harrison Route (p. 59) and Heyburn SP, the previous site.

SNOW PEAK TRAIL

Author: Dan Svingen

Site P-17 — Map P-17

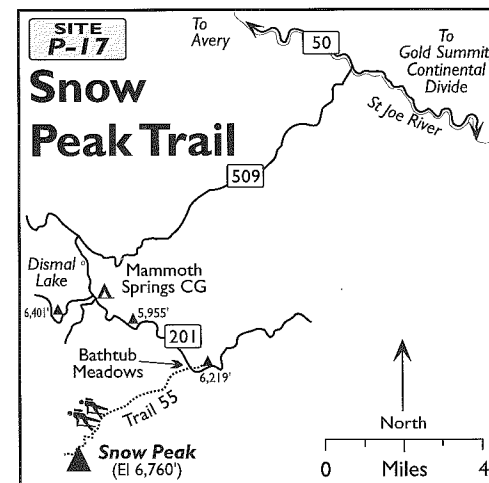
Highlights: Accipiters, Pine Grosbeak

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest

Location: Shoshone Co., 48 miles southeast of St. Maries

Spring: N/A **Summer:** *** **Fall:** ** **Winter:** N/A

Snow Peak is one of those spots that you really have to want to get to. Access is not a minor consideration. From St. Maries, it takes 6 hours to arrive; 3 by car and another 3 by foot. The rewards, however, are great views and neat birds. From the look-out atop the 6,700-foot crest, you can admire the Mallard-Larkins Pioneer Area, watch for birds flying along the ridgetop, and observe Mountain Goats at close quarters.



you'll pass Dismal Lake (0.8 mile south of the FR Road 509/FR Road 201 intersection) and primitive Mammoth Springs Campground (1.1 miles south of Dismal Lake).

From Bathub Meadows trailhead, follow the well-marked path (Trail 55) southwest for 5 miles to the look-out. The trail, rated as "moderately difficult," is relatively flat for the first 4 miles, before climbing over 1,000 feet to the look-out.

BIRDING:

The trail and the look-out itself offer the best birding. Blue Grouse, Gray Jays, and Pine Grosbeaks breed in the Subalpine Fir and Engelmann Spruce forest lining the trail, and they can be found by careful listening. Boreal Owls are much harder to find. Try calling for them at night in October.

Four miles from the parking area, the trail enters a small meadow complete with rock slides and boggy lakes. This meadow is a good place to camp, and it allows scoping the cliffs below the look-out before you begin your ascent; recommended if you're searching for resident Mountain Goats. From the look-out, watch for accipiters, August until snowfall. The ridge system seems to be a favored thermal-producer, evident by mid-morning appearances of several Sharp-shinned, a few Cooper's, and an occasional Northern Goshawk circling back and forth.

OTHER:

The road and trail are typically snow-free from mid-June to mid-October, but it's always wise to check with the FS station (208/245-4517), six miles west of Avery along FH 50, for the latest information. Because of the maze of roads and trails in this area, a recent FS map is highly recommended. St. Maries is the closest full-service community.

EMERALD CREEK

Author: Dan Svingen

Site P-18 — Map P-18

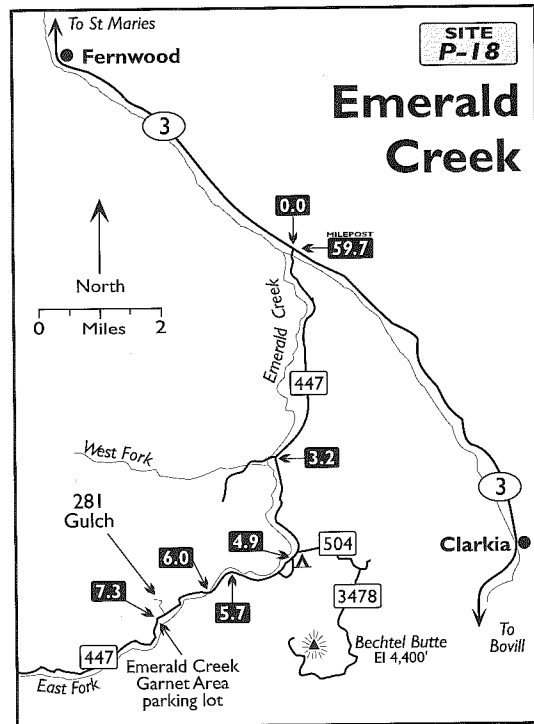
Highlights: Northern Goshawk, Barred Owl, Northern Pygmy-Owl

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest, Wetland

Location: Shoshone Co., 18 miles southeast of St. Maries

Spring: ** **Summer:** ** **Fall:** * **Winter:** N/A

Scores of rockhounds visit Emerald Creek each year. Emerald Creek and India are the only places in the world where you can excavate your own Star Garnet; Idaho's State Gem. With patience, you may also see a Northern Goshawk or a Barred Owl.



“Campground”). Garnet sand is processed at this road junction, so it may appear that you’re driving into a gravel-crushing operation. Don’t despair, since the road snakes through the congestion for only 0.2 mile before entering the forest canopy and running up East Fork Emerald Creek. From here on up is public land (FS), all open for birding.

DIRECTIONS:

From Fernwood follow ID 3 southeast about 4 miles. At milepost 59.7 turn right (south) onto FR 447. (Look for the large brown sign for Emerald Creek.) Zero your mileage and go straight over the railroad tracks, cattle-guard, and bridge. Watch for Ruffed Grouse, American Dip-pers, Mountain Blue-birds, and American Pipits (September–October), but *please bird from the road only since this is private land*. Pavement ends at mile 0.3.

At mile 3.2 is a confusing junction. Take the second left, staying on FR 447 (signed for

BIRDING:

At mile 4.9, pull over and bird Emerald Creek Campground (FS), on the left (south). Barred Owls are often found at night in or around the campground. During the day, you are likely to find Common Ravens, Willow and Cordilleran Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds, and Townsend’s Warblers.

Continue west on FR 447. At mile 5.7, park in the small pull-out on the right (north) and cross the creek. Currently, there’s an old dilapidated bridge here, but it may be safer to wade the creek. If you use the bridge, be very careful of your footing. Future plans call for a foot bridge to be put in at mile 5.5. Once you’re on the north side of East Fork Emerald Creek, cross the electric fence and enter the small (20 acre) meadow. This site was strip-mined for decades but has been reclaimed as a wildlife area. Look for Willow Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, MacGillivray’s Warblers, and Song Sparrows along the creek, and Canada Geese, Mallards, Hooded Mergansers, Soras, and Vaux’s Swifts by the 1.5-acre pond. Also investigate the little potholes in the meadow for Spotted Sandpipers, and hordes of Spotted Frog, Western Toad, and Long-toed Salamander young’ns. Mountains form an amphitheater around the meadow, echoing calls of Northern Pygmy-Owls (August and September) and of Pileated Woodpeckers (year round).

Continuing west on FR 447, you’ll cross East Fork Emerald Creek at mile 6.0. Look for Willow Flycatchers, Cassin’s Vireos, Wilson’s Warblers, and Fox Sparrows.

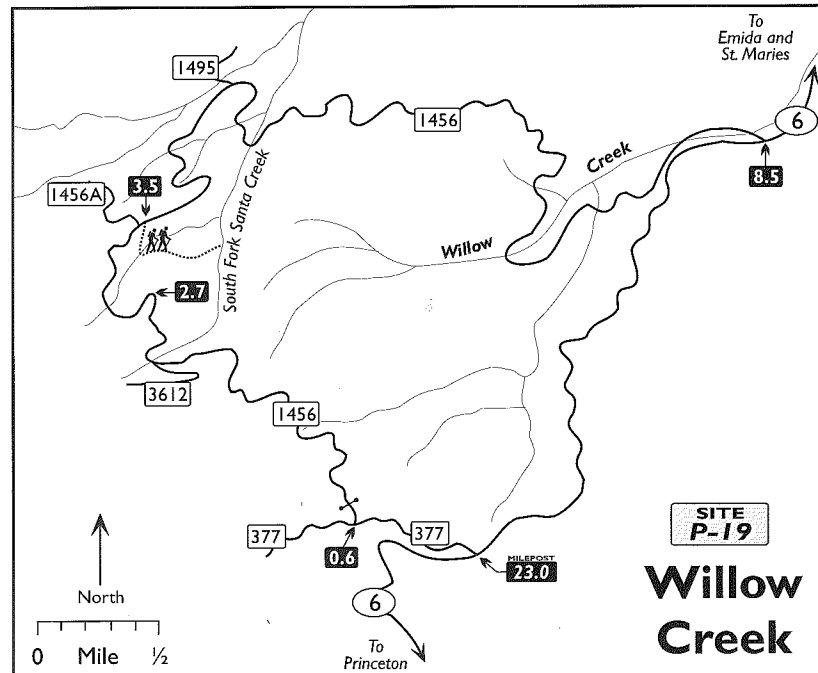
If you’re looking for Northern Goshawks, ask FS rangers at the garnet-digging site. To reach the site, continue up East Fork Emerald Creek to mile 7.3. Pull over at the large parking lot on the left (south) and leave your car. Backtrack east on FS 447 (i.e., downstream) about 100 yards, where a gated road goes up a side draw (“281 Gulch”), to the northwest. The ranger shack (and garnet-digging areas) are up the road about 0.3 mile. The shack sits in a small meadow hosting a lively colony of Columbian Ground Squirrels. At least one pair of Northern Goshawks dines heavily on these large rodents.

For an interesting side trip, return to Emerald Creek Campground and head north on FR 447 for 0.2 mile, then go right (east) on FR 504 for 2.5 miles. At the T intersection, go right (south) and follow the main road as it winds to the top of Bechtel Butte. A high-clearance vehicle is necessary for the last 0.2 mile. (Be aware that there is a tight turn-around at road’s end.) From Bechtel Butte, scan the wide swaths of conifer forest for soaring Northern Goshawks. At least three pairs nest in the drainage, but you’ll have to be lucky to see one. Northern Pygmy-Owls often hunt here also, perching on snag tops or bushes. Although resident all year, pygmy-owls are most often seen in late fall.

OTHER:

Fuel, food, and some supplies are available in Fernwood. Additional services are available in St. Maries or Moscow. Primitive camping is available at the FS Emerald Creek Campground for most of the non-snow season.

You can dig garnets from Memorial Day to Labor Day, but fee permits are required. This popular adult/children activity requires getting very muddy. For more information, call the FS (208/245-2531) in St. Maries.



WILLOW CREEK

Author: Dan Svingen

Site P-19 — Map P-19

Highlights: Olive-sided Flycatcher, Fox Sparrow

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest

Location: Shoshone Co., 30 miles southwest of St. Maries

Spring: N/A **Summer:** ** **Fall:** * **Winter:** N/A

Willow Creek is a 3,700-acre chunk of NF land, about 6 miles southwest of Emida. Although over 100 bird species have been found here, Willow Creek is unlikely to be a prime birding destination. This area does, however, provide a welcome respite from the highway. The ease of birding Willow Creek will improve once current plans for an auto tour and interpretive trails are activated. Because of the uncertainty of these improvements, you may want to telephone

the St. Joe Ranger District (208/245-2531) regarding the status of timber harvest, road closures, and interpretive improvements before venturing forth.

Both clearcuts and partial cuts are obvious in Willow Creek. Edges of these timber units are favored by Moose; keep an eye out, and provoke neither bull nor cow.

DIRECTIONS:

To explore Willow Creek, follow ID 6 southwest of Emida to the crest of the Palouse Divide. At milepost 23 turn right (northwest) into a large pull-out and zero your mileage. Follow graded FR 377, which climbs up the cutbank from the back of the pull-out. FR 377 soon enters the forest and then winds along the ridgetop. At mile 0.6, turn right (north) onto FR 1456 and drive into Willow Creek drainage.

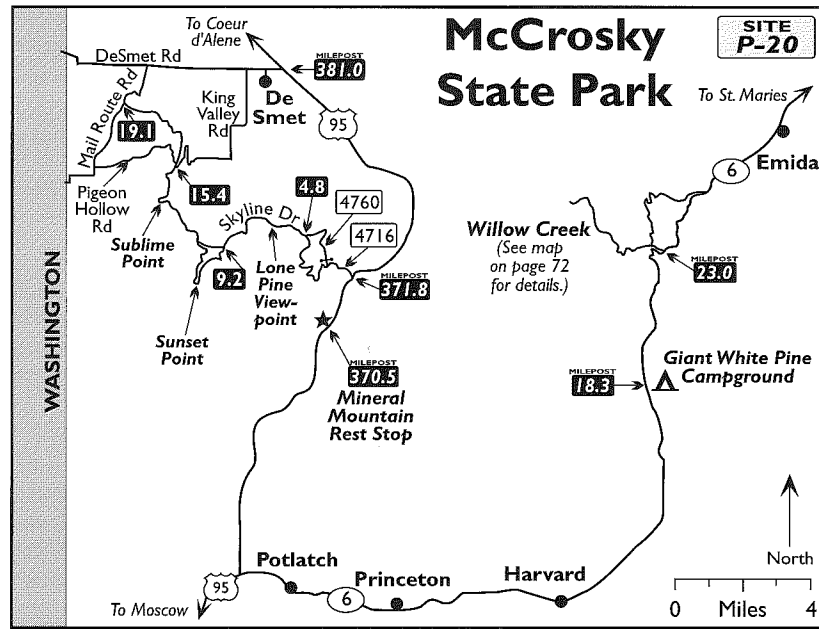
BIRDING:

At mile 0.7 you'll reach a gate at the edge of a large clearcut. Stop and look for House and Rock Wrens, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaires, Western Tanagers, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches (occasional, September to April), and Pine Grosbeaks (uncommon). Drive through the gate (open during the summer but closed during the rest of the year). You enter forest at mile 1, where you are likely to hear multitudes of Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Swainson's and Varied Thrushes, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Cassin's Finches, and Red Crossbills. Keep watch for Barred Owls, too. Be sure to stop and scan clearcuts along this route as well. At mile 1.9 you'll pass a young conifer plantation on the right (north) where Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers and Dark-eyed Juncos are common. At mile 2.3 go straight (i.e., stay right). At mile 2.7 stop to see if the planned "Root Rot" trail on the right has been brushed-out yet. Three-toed, Black-backed, and Pileated Woodpeckers are occasionally seen here. At mile 2.9 you reach a 20-year-old clearcut, covered with vigorous young conifers and plentiful MacGillivray's Warblers. At mile 3.5 is a road junction. Park and walk the old logging-road to the right (southeast) for 0.5 mile. In the mixed brush/forest habitat at the end of this road, listen for Dusky Flycatchers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks.

The most diverse birding along this route is in partially-cut forest between miles 5.9 and 7.4. A variety of species occur, including Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Olive-sided Flycatchers and Fox Sparrows should be looked for in the older plantations around mile 7.5. You'll rejoin ID 6 at mile 8.5, 3 miles southwest of Emida.

OTHER:

A restaurant in Emida is usually open. For all other services, try St. Maries, Potlatch, or Moscow. See also Moscow Mountain Route (p. 76).



McCROSKY STATE PARK

Authors: John and Marty Hirth, Carole Vande Voorde, Kas Dumroese

Site P-20 — Map P-20

Highlights: Ruffed Grouse, Western Bluebird

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest

Location: Latah Co., 25 miles north of Moscow

Spring: ** **Summer:** ** **Fall:** * **Winter:** *

The 4,500-acre Mary Minerva McCrosky SP is a strictly low-budget spot. There's no map, maybe one toilet and about eight picnic tables, and the place accommodates only primitive camping—but it's worth visiting for the spectacular views alone. This 20-mile drive takes you through forest along ridgetops, and provides access to several dirt spurs and trails in a mish-mash of federal, state, tribal, and industrial forest land. Snow closes the road, late October until well into April.

DIRECTIONS:

From Moscow follow US 95 north for 25 miles. At milepost 371.8 (on the Latah and Benewah County line), turn left (west) onto Skyline Drive (a.k.a. FR 4716) and zero your mileage. Beware of on-coming traffic. At mile 0.5 is an information sign on the right (north). Stop and note the "Skyline Drive" markers; these are about the only road signs that you'll see.

BIRDING:

Along this route Ruffed Grouse are abundant, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees and Townsend's Solitaires are common, and Pileated Woodpeckers and Evening Grosbeaks are uncommon. At mile 1.1, you can park and hike FR 4760 toward Mineral Mountain. (If you don't want to hike, vehicular access is possible farther along the route.) Look for Red-eyed Vireos, MacGillivray's and Wilson's Warblers, and White-crowned Sparrows during migration, Western Wood-Pewees and Cordilleran Flycatchers in summer, and at all seasons Blue Grouse (rare and declining) and Clark's Nutcrackers.

Back on the route, you'll pass through Western Redcedars in wet draws; listen for Winter Wrens and Varied Thrushes and watch for Barred Owls (uncommon). On the dry, shrubby slopes above the road listen for Orange-crowned and Nashville Warblers.

At mile 4.8, FR 4760 is reached by a sharp turn to the right (east). With a high-clearance vehicle, you can drive 2 miles up this narrow dirt road to the old look-out on top of Mineral Mountain (4,128 feet) for a panoramic view of the Palouse/Hoodoo Range.

At mile 5.7 is a short turn-off (left; south) to Lone Pine Viewpoint, a good spot for Western Bluebirds. The vista should be scanned for Swainson's Hawks in summer, Rough-legged Hawks in migration, and Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks year round. A trail originates here and meanders down the ridge side for a mile to a picnic area. Dusky Flycatchers and Gray Jays can be found along Skyline Drive in this vicinity.

The dirt road reached by a right turn at mile 8.7 leads 0.7 mile to Mission Mountain (4,324 feet), ending at a picnic area. This road is particularly good for Swainson's (nesting) and Hermit (migrating) Thrushes. Northern Goshawks nest nearby. At the Y at mile 9.2, go left on "old" Skyline Drive. The "old" road is good, and at mile 10.3 you reach Sunset Point and another fine view of the Palouse Prairie. Hawks seen here are the same as those at Lone Pine. At this point the ridge projects into the Palouse, suggesting that it might be a good spot for hawks and falcons during fall migration. Stay right (north) at the point and follow the road as it winds along the forest edge, where Cassin's and Warbling Vireos and Townsend's Warblers again are prevalent. You'll rejoin "new" Skyline Drive at mile 11.7.

Skyline Drive continues at somewhat lower altitude with another fine viewpoint of the Palouse and conical Steptoe Butte at Sublime Point (mile 14). Late October may host Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches along the rock cutbanks for the next mile. Skyline Drive becomes muddier as you continue, especially in spring and late fall. (At mile 15.4 you can take King Valley Road, which veers right (east) for a shortcut back to civilization.) Skyline Drive continues straight, and in 0.1 mile Pigeon Hollow Road heads left (west) toward Farmington, Washington. If you stay on Skyline, stay left at the Y at mile 16.5. At mile 19.1 you intersect Mail Route Road; turn right (northeast) and follow

it to a T intersection at mile 21.1. The forest is somewhat more open in this section and features Western Bluebirds and Western Tanagers. At the T turn right (east) onto poorly marked DeSmet Road and follow it to mile 25.1 and US 95 at milepost 381.

OTHER:

Fuel, groceries, and a restaurant can be found in Tensed, one mile north of where DeSmet Road meets US 95. Unfortunately, the Idaho DeLorme Atlas (1992 edition) has most of the roads in and around McCrosky erroneously named. Moscow is the nearest full-service community.

The Mineral Mountain Rest Stop at US 95 milepost 370.5 has a nice nature trail where you might find House Wrens, both kinglet species, Cassin's, Warbling, and Red-eyed Vireos, and Cassin's Finches.

MOSCOW MOUNTAIN ROUTE

Authors: John and Marty Hirth, Kas Dumroese

Site P-21 — Map P-21

Highlights: Barred Owl, Varied Thrush

Major Habitats: Mixed Conifer Forest, Deciduous Forest

Location: Latah Co., 8 miles north of Moscow

Spring: ** **Summer:** ** **Fall:** * **Winter:** *

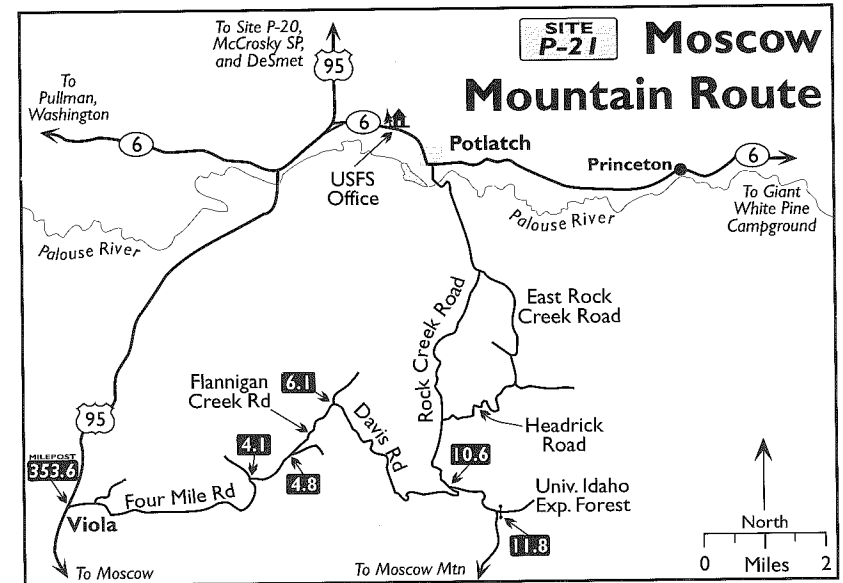
This 50-mile route leads you up the north slope of Moscow Mountain (4,983 feet) and ends near the Palouse Divide, where much turn-of-the-century gold mining occurred.

DIRECTIONS:

From Moscow drive north on US 95 about 8 miles to Viola. At milepost 353.6, zero your mileage and turn right (east) on Four Mile Road. Stay left at the Y at mile 0.1 and right at the Ys at mile 0.6 and 4.1, as Four Mile Road becomes Flanagan Creek Road at the latter spot. Stay left at the Y at mile 4.8. At mile 6.1 turn right (southeast) on Davis Road (gravel). Follow Davis Road, checking the stream edge from the road, especially between miles 6.1 and 6.6, for warblers and Red-eyed Vireos. You'll reach a T intersection with Rock Creek Road at mile 10.6. Turn right (southeast) and ascend Moscow Mountain. This road is gravel for 3 miles and is usually plowed in winter, and then it becomes dirt which is not maintained in winter (reopening about mid-May).

BIRDING:

Throughout this route, near the forest edge one may find Great Horned, Northern Pygmy-, Barred (uncommon) and Northern Saw-whet Owls.



These species are permanent residents but are more vocal and visible from February to April and again in September. Other birds visible from along the edge include migrating Vaux's Swifts, Hermit Thrushes, Nashville, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers, and Fox, White-throated (rare), and Golden-crowned (rare) Sparrows. Local breeders include Cordilleran Flycatchers, Western Bluebirds, Swainson's Thrushes, Yellow Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Lazuli Buntings. Winter species to look for are Northern Goshawk (uncommon), Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Shrike, Pine Grosbeak (occasional), Cassin's Finch, and Common Redpoll.

A gated road on the left (north) side of the road at mile 11.8 leads into the University of Idaho Experimental Forest (public). Besides this road, there are numerous old, unused logging roads where one can hike into the forest. Birds here include nesting Three-toed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Clark's Nutcrackers, Mountain and Chestnut-backed Chickadees, and Townsend's Warblers. There's also the possibility of Olive-sided Flycatchers (rare, summer) and White-winged Crossbills (very rare, winter).

Return to the T and follow Rock Creek Road (go straight) 1.3 miles north; then turn right (east) on Headrick Road. This 2-mile-long gravel road passes through forest and then brushy slopes and is very good in spring for migrating warblers and in summer for Hammond's, Dusky, and Cordilleran Flycatchers, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, Western Tanagers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks. In winter this road is not snowplowed, but one can by-pass it by continuing to Potlatch via Rock Creek Road. Just past "Lucy Lane," Headrick Road curves left (north) and goes up a slight hill, becoming East Rock Creek