

Naches Pass Trail #1175/684

Distance: 9.56 miles Running Time: Approx. 2.5 to 3 hours Difficulty: Easy

In 1853 Washington Territory was established and shortly thereafter a route was made from Walla Walla to Fort Steilacoom via Naches Pass. However, the pass was not a good one and the route proved to be very difficult which resulted in very little use by the first settlers.

Today the western half of the trail numbered 1175 is open to wheeled vehicles only from July 15th through November 15th and Northwest Forest passes are required. The eastern half numbered 684 is open year round but due to snow is usually not available to wheeled vehicles during the winter and becomes a favorite for snowmobilers and cross country skiers.

The Naches is one of our favorites for its beautiful scenery. At Government Meadows you will find Camp Urich. Located south of the trail a few hundred yards on the Pacific Crest hiking trail, Camp Urich is a log cabin complete with a loft, plexiglass windows and a wood stove. There is an outhouse behind the cabin and you may use the cabin on a first come first served basis. You may find yourself sharing the cabin with hikers using the trail but all are welcome here. The cabin looks out on Government Meadows, a beautiful and huge meadow where if you're lucky you may see deer or elk in the evenings. There is usually a log book here with comments left by earlier visitors, take the time to sign it if you like.

Continuing eastward you will quickly come to a historical sign outligning the basic history of the trail. To the east of here there are a few tougher sections but for the most part it continues to be fairly easy.

Lots of opportunity exists to exit if one does not wish to continue as the trail passes across several logging roads at many points. On the eastern end of the trail past the FS1913 road the trail deteriorates to a most difficult trail and is only suitable for short wheelbase vehicles. The trail can be hard to find, is not easily identifiable on maps and many locals do not even know of its existence. Trail markers are usually hard to find but some do exist.

Getting there: Take Hwy 410 east to Greenwater. Continue past Greenwater for about a mile. Turn left onto forest service road 70 (FS-70). At approximately 9 miles from hwy 410 on FS70 the road makes a very hard hairpin turn to the right. You will notice a smaller and less used road straight ahead. This is the road up to the beginning of the Naches Trail. Continue straight ahead on this road and bear right where it splits, it should wind around and start to climb up hill. At several places you will cross over large piles of shale rock before reaching the top of the ridgeline and the start of the trail #1175.

OR: 3.75 miles west of Cliffdell on Hwy. 410 turn north on FS19. Follow FS19 north. At just over 10 miles there is a small pull out on the right side with a notice board. This is the beginning of the 684 trail and is rated as most difficult. If you wish to bypass this portion of the trail, continue north on FS19 another 1.6 miles and turn right on FS 1913. Just prior to the bridge watch for the trail on the left.

www.nwjeepn.com The Trail Starts Here!