Welcome to Central Oregon’s High Country

CASCADE
LAKES
NATIONAL
SCENIC BYWAY

Tour of
Interpretive
Sites
Welcome to Cascade Lakes National Scenic Byway

This 66-mile historic highway was selected by Scenic America as one of the nation’s ten most important byways. It became a National Scenic Byway in 1998 because of its outstanding scenic, natural and recreational qualities. It was also dedicated as a National Forest Scenic Byway in 1989. The byway follows a journey of water through a volcanic landscape accentuated by 14 alpine lakes. Reflected in many lakes are scenic views of Mt. Bachelor, Broken Top, and South Sister. The byway is a great way of getting in touch with cultures and communities of Central Oregon.

The Cascade Lakes have been the ultimate outdoor family adventure for generations of Central Oregon residents and visitors. Most of the fun stories you hear at family gatherings are all about the fishing, camping, boating, and hiking trips made together over the years. To learn more about Central Oregon's high country, see the interpretive sites tour map that provides an ideal way to connect with nature, history and cultural heritage.
Learn how Soda Creek was destroyed by a glacial "tsunami" and then restored from a straight channel back to its natural meandering flow and habitat.

The photography of Ray Atkeson created a lifelong legacy of preservation of Oregon's beautiful and wild places.

The historic red road and guard station site were restored and each summer, Forest Service volunteers provide plenty of stories to byway travelers.

Come to a special place where you'll see migratory birds sharing the same place with resident birds and water birds with land birds. From hummingbirds to cranes, you'll see more diversity at each of the Cascade Lakes.

Incredible birdwatching opportunities are available both on land and water at Crane Prairie. The views to the Cascades from this vantage point are spectacular.

For more information, contact the Deschutes National Forest, Bend/North District at (541) 383-4000 or go to www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon and www.byways.org.
South Sister. Camp sites have no drinking water.

Ideal for peaceful paddling and picnicking and is the jumping off point for hiking cooler temperatures as its striking appearance. This shallow protected lake is the glacial source of these turquoise green waters is as well known for its geological discoveries to be made on the Ray Atkeson Memorial Trail. Camp sites have no drinking water.

Devils Lake
The glacial source of these turquoise green waters is as well known for its cooler temperatures as its striking appearance. This shallow protected lake is the ultimate gathering place for those who love to be in or on the water. The views to Mt. Bachelor and South Sister are incredible and Elk Lake Resort is open yearround for both summer and winter recreation activities. Amenities: Cabins, Restaurant, Grocery Store, Boat Rentals, Gas, Trailhead Rentals: Canoes, Fishing Boats (motors) (no motors allowed)

Hosmer Lake
Originally known as “Mud Lake,” Hosmer has become a sportsman’s paradise for its peaceful canoeing and kayaking the views are a photographer’s dream with concentrations of waterfowl can be seen. The Crane Prairie Resort has had an interesting history with some high-profile visitors. Pedestal Point was formed about 6,000 years ago when a large lava flow cut off Odell Creek. Historically known for large rainbow trout, there is currently no limit on largemouth bass at this popular flyfishing lake. The area experienced a large fire in 2003.

Davis Lake
This large shallow lake was formed about 6,000 years ago when a large lava flow cut off Odeel Creek. Historically known for large rainbow trout, there is currently no limit on largemouth bass at this popular flyfishing lake. The area experienced a large fire in 2003.

North & South Twin Lakes
These twin lakes are symmetrical in shape and about 60 feet deep. They are unique geological formations known as volcanic maars. North Twin has a more primitive level of camping with tent sites while Twin Lakes Resort at South Twin has cabins including one named for President Hoover who once stayed there. Amenities at South Twin: Cabins, Lodge, Restaurant, Grocery Store, Showers & Laundry Facilities (open to the public) Rentals at South Twin: Fishing Boats (no motors allowed)

Wickiup Reservoir
Wickiup is a place for camping, fishing, boating, and water sports. Named for “wickiup” shelters made out of poles and covered with brush or tree limbs, Indians used to camp here while fishing and hunting seasonally each year.
History of the Red Road

Cascade Lakes Highway was paved with red volcanic cinders in the 1950s. This provided a unique experience for Deschutes National Forest visitors exploring the beautiful Cascade Lakes area. Red roads became a Central Oregon landmark. The red road was paved over with black asphalt in the 1980s. This historic once red road was called Century Drive because it was about 100 miles round-trip from Bend to Elk Lake.

Historic Elk Lake Guard Station

A historic guard station at the heart of the byway is where volunteers share stories about the forest guard and the surrounding area. The log cabin was built in 1929 and served as a base for a forest guard. Restored as a visitor information center in 1997 and rededicated in 2001, additional funds from the Federal Highway Administration in 2006 were used to rehabilitate the grounds and restore the road to the site. The guard station is now included on the National Register of Historic Places.