



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific  
Northwest  
Region



# Roaded Trips - Sightseeing Lookout Viewpoints

The Naches Ranger District offers many unique opportunities for sightseeing trips along its general use forest roads. Though some of these roads may be rough and require higher clearance vehicles, they can usually be traveled in a sedan or truck. The following trips offer splendid views, opportunities for dispersed camping, and access to Wilderness trailheads.

Recreationists traveling these routes should always carry emergency equipment in their vehicle and be prepared for the unexpected. Fill the gas tank before departing, carry shovel, blanket, extra food and other essentials. Do not attempt any of these trips without a current map, good tires, a spare tire, and sunglasses. A compass and binoculars are also beneficial.

The following rating serves as a good guide in gauging the difficulty of the routes.

## ***Difficulty rating key:***

***Easy:*** Passenger car is acceptable, road surfaces paved or good gravel surface.

***Difficult:*** High clearance vehicles advised. Gravel road surfaces, higher clearance vehicle and stronger tires advised.

***More difficult:*** High clearance trucks and four wheel drive required.

***Most difficult:*** Four-wheel Driveway. Rough surface with rocks. Challenging for short base four-wheel drive vehicles.

## **1. Jumpoff Lookout**

**Estimated trip time** from U.S. Highway 12 four to six hours.

**Difficulty rating:** More difficult from U.S. Highway 12 to lookout site.

**Lookout site along this route:** Jumpoff Lookout Station.

This is a 13 mile dead end road. Leave U.S. Highway 12 at Windy Point, between the two highway bridges, on Forest Service Road #1302 up the ridge to the south and west, passing through some private land. This road will be rough. Lower sections of road is narrow and the upper sections are rocky. In the first two miles the road is extremely narrow and you may have to back up when encountering another vehicle. Wide motorhomes or trailers are not recommended for this route. Early season blowdown and snowbanks can block road as late as July 1st. Avoid roads into Cowiche Canyon with all but high centered four-wheel drive vehicles.

**BACKGROUND:** This is the last lookout station on the Naches Ranger District. Outstanding views are Rimrock Lake, Tieton Basin and to the east and north are Mt. Adams, Mt. Rainier and on a clear day Mt. Stuart. Old clearcuts on Pinegrass Ridge are visible from here. (See trip #4) Jumpoff Road was a wagon road as early as 1888 when John Russell homesteaded what is now the bottom of Rimrock Lake.

An outstanding view awaits you two miles up the road from Windy Point. Park here and take in the view of the Tieton River below. From here the old road to the east goes through private land to the town of Tieton. To the west you will see Jumpoff, 8 miles distance at the road end. Travel beyond this point is slow and difficult. The old Native American trail and cattlemen's stock driveway follows this general route from Tieton to Jumpoff. John Russell who homesteaded where Rimrock Reservoir is now located probably traveled this route into and out of the Tieton Basin in the 1880's. Tieton cattlemen followed this route on their way to Louey Gap and into Tieton Basin as early as 1910. Homer Splawn drove cattle here when he was but a sapling.

An older lookout was placed just south of the present station. A monument to Kevin Miller, a popular lookout who staffed the station, is located nearby. Dry site, dispersed camping is available at several areas along the 13 mile Jumpoff Road. An old lookout spring is located below, and east of the last road switchback, just before the lookout. Water here is not dependable.

## **2. Lost Lake Area**

**Estimated time** to drive to Lost Lake and beyond to trail and return over a loop to the emergency airstrip is two hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy from U.S. Highway 12 to Lost Lake, Difficult beyond.

**No Lookout sites along this route.** Jumpoff Lookout can be reached on foot over old Louey Trail, now four-wheel driveway to Louey Way Gap and a single tread trail beyond. Blue Slide Lookout site can be reached by Short and Dirty Trail, but is not an easy trail. You'll need map, compass and some time.

Leave U.S. Highway 12 just west of Hause Creek Campground and turn to the south onto Tieton Road #1200. Within 1/4 mile, turn left on Road #1201. This road is paved to Lost Lake turnoff; continue on gravel to Trail #1145 trailhead which takes you to Long Lake. Return back down to Lost Lake junction and take Road #1200-570 to Tieton Road #1200. You can't ignore Kloochman Rock as you traverse it's south side. A parking spot at an old gravel quarry between Lost and Long Lake turnoffs provides a short walk to Kloochman Rock. The four-wheel drive trail beyond Long Lake follows the old Louey Gap Trail which John Russell followed to get to Yakima before roads entered this basin around 1910.

**BACKGROUND:** There are several access roads which will take you back to the Tieton Road; follow your map closely. You will circle Kloochman Rock and get a good view of Goose Egg Rock and Chimney Peaks, both worthwhile non trail treks which offer good sights. You may see cattle or corrals. The old Tieton Cattleman's Association permit is now held by private ranchers, but cattle still graze these slopes just as they did in 1910. A trail back down the Tieton River, known as Cow Can Trail, departs Road #1201 near the waste treatment facility by the entrance to Camp Ghormley. This trail is still utilized to drive cattle. It gives good access to the river for fishing, but also provides opportunities for short trip camping or early spring "leg stretching."

You may want to stop at Jumpoff Meadow. Turn left off Road #1201 before Lost Lake, to Road #577. This site is a good area for large groups, early season use, and horses. You will probably see some of the domestic "meadow munchers" and perhaps an elk, who graze this basin throughout the summer.

## **3. Conrad Meadows**

**Estimated trip time** from Rimrock Lake is four to six hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy to Grey Creek, gravel beyond.

**No Lookout sites along this route,** but the steep trail to Bear Creek Mountain departs near the Conrad Meadows gate.

Leave U.S. Highway 12 and turn on Tieton Road #1200 loop east or west of Rimrock Lake. Turn south on South Fork Tieton Road #1000 near Rimrock Peninsula. Stay on Road #1000 to Conrad Meadows or take alternate trip to Pinegrass Ridge (Trip # 1).

**BACKGROUND:** This 1880's route was mentioned by Mae Conrad Sickler as a cattle driveway. Conrad Meadows is private land and a gate limits vehicle access beyond this point. Good camping, horseback riding, and hiking are available here. Group size limit in the Goat Rocks Wilderness is a combination of 12 people and horses.

## **4. Pinegrass Ridge**

**Estimated trip time** including alternate loops is four to six hours from U.S. Highway 12.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy until Road #1204-760 junction; the last two miles of Road #1204 are difficult and often muddy.

**Lookout site along this route:** Bear Creek Mountain (trail access).

Pinegrass Ridge lies to the south of Rimrock Lake and northeast of Bear Creek Mountain. There are several ways to visit Pinegrass Ridge from Tieton Road #1200. Turn on Road #1200 either east or west of Rimrock Lake. From the east end at the junction of U.S. Highway 12 and Tieton Road #1200 (just west of Hause Creek Campground) turn to the south and cross the Tieton River. Continue on this road until you reach South Fork Tieton Road #1000. Follow this road for .5 mile and turn on Pinetree Road #1241. From the west end of Rimrock Reservoir at the junction of U.S. Highway 12 and Tieton Road #1200 (just west of Indian Creek Campground or about 4.5 miles east of Dog Lake), turn on Road #1200 and follow it until you reach Pinegrass Road #1205 or Bear Creek Mountain Road #1204. All of these roads ascend through old logging areas, harvested in the 1950's to remove beetle killed trees. Road #1204 to Section Three Lake offers unique views of Divide Ridge to the south and opportunities for picnicking.

**BACKGROUND:** Look for unique views into North and South Fork Tieton drainages. A remarkable view of Mt. Rainier is available near Road #1204 and #757 junction. Dispersed camping is possible at most stream crossings; check your map for road/stream intersections. Some dispersed horse camping is available but Jumpoff Meadows in the Lost Lake area or North Fork Tieton Road #1207 probably offers more opportunity. There is little opportunity for off road play, but mountain biking these roaded loops offers good views and plenty of miles. Check the old, abandoned and now faint trail from Section Three Lake back into South Fork Tieton.

## **5. Round Mountain Road**

**Estimated trip time** from Clear Lake is two hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy on gravel road to trailhead.

**Lookout site along this route:** Round Mountain (trail access).

From U.S. Highway 12 enter Tieton Road #1200 east or west of Rimrock Lake, depart Road #1200 west of Clear Lake and proceed up Round Mountain Road #1200-830. Unique views to the east over Rimrock Lake can be seen from this road. Indian Springs is located below the trailhead parking area. Rimrock Lake Reservoir was finished in 1925. At that time, Tieton Dam was the largest earth filled dam in the world.

**BACKGROUND:** Outstanding Rimrock Lake views; a camera is essential. This is a winter cross country ski route. Indian Springs, on the lower side of the trailhead (end of road), makes this portal a good place to car camp. The trailhead is somewhat exposed and can be cold and windy any month of the year. A few huckleberries can be found along the trail during late summer, but don't plan on much more than a snack. You may see the old single strand, bare wire, phone line or white ceramic insulators along the trail. Hikes toward the previous lookout promise outstanding views and eventually will take you to the Pacific Crest Trail near Hell Lake.

## **6. Rocky Prairie/Rock Creek Loop**

**Estimated trip time** is two to four hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Difficult to Canteen Flats, more difficult beyond.

**Lookout sites along this route:** Bald Mountain (short hike), Trail access to Quartz Mountain.

This trip offers unique forest edge and transition forest zone topography in the Bald Mountain area between Cleman Lookout and Manastash Ridge. Proceed off State Route 410 up Bald Mountain Road #1701 (near Sprick Park) to Rocky Prairie and return down Rock Creek Road #1702 by way of Road #1720. A map is recommended for this trip as there are many non-system jeep roads to confuse you throughout this route. Follow posted road numbers. There are good views along the road and from the top of the abandoned lookout site at Bald Mountain.

**BACKGROUND:** This is an outstanding early season trip where wildflowers are dynamic. At the top of the first five mile climb you come to Rocky Prairie. The Longmire wagon train likely stopped here before dropping into the Naches Basin at Elk Ridge. Drive on through Canteen Flat. Only experienced 4x4's can reach the old lookout; drive beyond the site with caution. A route to Quartz Mountain (to the north) from here is very difficult for all, but dedicated vehicles can drive there from Cle Elum. Depart the ridge and return the way you came or use one of the other access roads to return to State Route 410. As you return to

Elk Ridge you are in the general area where the Longmire Wagon Train reached the Naches River. A view back up the Ridge displays the courage and tenacity of those pioneer wagons. At this site portions of the Audey Murphy movie "To Hell and Back" were filmed.

## **7. Clover Springs/Little Bald Lookout**

**Estimated trip time** is four to six hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy until Road #1600-1706 junction. Travel to Little Bald difficult and more difficult beyond. Mud Springs four-wheel drive route to Clover Springs is most difficult.

**Lookout sites along this route:** Little Bald Mountain, Clover Springs.

Depart State Route 410 onto the Nile Road near Woodshed Restaurant. Little Bald Lookout site (lookout station now removed) and Clover Springs can be accessed from Nile Road #1600 or across the first Naches River bridge above Cliffdell on Forest Road #1706. Road #1600 climbs to Little Bald turnoff and proceeds on to Clover Springs where a four-wheel only "Mud Springs Trail" descends back down the William O. Douglas Wilderness boundary to Mud Springs. Outstanding views are available at both Little Bald and Clover Springs overlook. The Mud Springs Trail was once the route used by miners to get to Goose Prairie from Yakima before the Bureau of Reclamation built a road there early in this century.

**BACKGROUND:** Clover Springs offers a remarkable view into the rugged Wilderness. The four-wheel drive route back to Mud Springs is an outstanding trip to jeep, mountain bike, horseback or hike. Clover Springs was once a camp along the old Nile Ridge Trail, connecting the Nile Post Office to Goose Prairie. Tom Fife, a local prospector and homesteader at Goose Prairie, knew this site well before roads entered this area. Hindoo John's horse was found wandering here after John, a well known shepherd and questionable prospector, was killed in the Hindoo drainage on August 2, 1896. This is also the rumored campground of Zokseye, legendary Native American and miner. If you listen closely when the wind is howling up Windy Ridge Trail you will hear Zokseye and Tom Fife exchanging stories about the lost mother lode.

## **8. Raven Roost Lookout Site**

**Estimated trip time** from mouth of Little Naches River is three to five hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Difficult from Little Naches Road #1900 to end. Expect snow drifts across road until July 1st annually.

**Lookout site along this route:** Raven Roost.

Turn off State Route 410 onto Little Naches Road #1900 west of Cliffdell. Proceed to Road #1902. Cross Crow Creek at the campground and take either the old or new road up to Raven Roost (13 miles). Dispersed camping is available at Huckleberry Camp. An outstanding view from Raven Roost can be seen in all directions. Fifes Peaks are the jagged rocks to the south.

**BACKGROUND:** The original Raven Roost Road was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the mid-1930's. Their "side camp" was at Huckleberry Camp (an opening and spring two miles east of the Roost.) The CCC crew constructed the road to Cougar Valley but departed in the fall and never returned to push the road deeper into Crow Creek. The road to Cougar Valley is now limited to hikers, horses, and mountain bikers and is an easy saunter through open hillsides and outstanding views. Raven Roost offers great views of Mt. Rainier, Fifes Ridge, a natural monument to the memory of Tom Fife. If you look closely into the Little Naches drainage to the north you may be able to trace the general route of the Longmire wagon train as they crossed Naches Pass here in 1853.

## **9. Miner's Ridge Lookout**

**Estimated trip time** is six hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy from State Route 410 to Bumping Lake, difficult from Bumping Lake to Granite Lake road turnoff, more difficult beyond to end.

**Lookout sites along this route:** Miner's Ridge Lookout, American Ridge/Goat Peak (trail access from Goat Creek Trailhead).

From State Route 410 turn toward Bumping Lake on Bumping River Road #1800 and proceed from Bumping Lake Dam west on the same road to Granite Lake Road #1809. The road up to the old lookout site is rough but passable. There are outstanding views from the ridge peak. Granite Lake Campground offers unique high elevation scenery. Dispersed camping is available along Deep Creek Road #1808.

**BACKGROUND:** Miner's Ridge Road offers dynamic views. The old lookout station is gone but plenty of evidence remains to honor those long departed lookout guards. Looking north into the Bumping area (as it rises to Cowlitz Pass) you will see a setting much like Snoqualmie Pass in 1860. The upper Bumping and Cowlitz Pass were surveyed numerous times for a railroad route between 1880 and 1910. This railroad route fueled interest in the Copper City Mining District. Root Lake, just below the peak, was named for Ruben Root, one of the most notorious of the Copper City speculators. Tommy Amato, camp cook and bottle washer, died near the top of Miner's Ridge when the kitchen woodpile at Clara Cabin fell on him as he was preparing the evening meal for miners. Tommy's dream of returning home to Japan was never realized but the peak reminds us that local miners represented all races and nationalities. Tommy was just one of the many "western type" characters who once lived on this rock.

## **10. Bethel Ridge Road**

**Estimated trip time** is four to six hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy on paved and graveled portions of Bethel Ridge Road #1500 from State Route 410 at Woodshed Restaurant to McDaniel Lake turnoff, difficult beyond to U.S. Highway 12.

**Lookout sites along this route:** Timberwolf Lookout (difficult road access off Timberwolf Road #1500-190), Mt. Aix Lookout (accessed by trail).

Bethel Ridge Road #1500 connects U.S. Highway 12 to State Route 410 between Eagle Rock Store (S.R. 410) and the Forest Service White Pass Work Center (U.S. Highway 12). Outstanding views are at Bethel Ridge microwave tower on Microwave Road #1500-324, Cash Prairie Road #1500-199, and from Timberwolf Lookout (lookout station now removed). Timberwolf is accessed from Road #1500-190. Unique views along Rattlesnake Creek can be accessed entirely by paved road from Eagle Rock. Observe forest road driving etiquette on this road by yielding to oncoming traffic at turnouts provided. The popular Gary Cooper movie "Hanging Tree" was filmed in the lower sections of Rattlesnake Creek drainage and a cabin scene was filmed at the (now long removed) Rattlesnake Springs cabin.

**BACKGROUND:** A great one day trip. Take side trips to Cash Prairie and Timberwolf Mountain. Some dispersed camping available at stream crossings. You may see mountain goats; respect their privacy! A small peak south of MJB Trailhead is a short scramble suitable for the physically fit. McDaniel Lake side trip on Road #1502 offers camping, elk hunting, access to Meeks Table, and dry camping at Mt. Aix Trailhead. Shepherders once knew this area well. Cash Prairie was named for a shepherd, "Short and Dirty" Cash. MJB Trailhead was once marked by a coffee can on a post, identifying the route for a sheepband packer.

## **11. White Pass/ Chinook Pass Loop**

**Estimated time** to make loop is four to six hours.

**Difficulty rating:** Easy highway travel. Spur roads which access many trails are gravel and can be difficult.

**Lookout sites along this route:** Many Naches District lookout sites are accessed from this route (see other trips)

From the junction of Naches and Tieton Rivers proceed west on either State Route 410 or U.S. Highway 12 which connect with State Route 123 (Cayuse Pass) inside Rainier National Park. This loop is a favorite route in the spring, summer and autumn but State Route 410 is closed at Morse Creek during winter months. Unlimited campground opportunities are available. Easternmost campgrounds (Windy Point on the White Pass Highway and Cottonwood on the Chinook Pass Highway) are the first campgrounds to open in the spring. High elevation camping is available at Leech Lake Campground on White Pass and at Lodgepole Campground below Morse Creek on Chinook Pass Highway. Motels and

restaurants are scattered along this route but gas is not plentiful west of Trout Lodge (U.S. Highway 12) or Cliffdell (State Route 410).

Unique opportunities off this route on the White Pass Highway are: Oak Creek Game Range, Kloochman Rock views, Rimrock Lake and White Pass ski area. On State Routes 123 and 410 unique locations include Mt. Rainier National Park, the Grove of Patriarchs, CCC constructed trail bridge and overlook at Chinook Pass, Mather Memorial Parkway corridor, Fifes Peaks, and Edgar Rock. A geological road log is available for this loop written by Newell Campbell and sold at Northwest Interpretive Association outlet in the Naches Ranger Station. The section of State Route 410 between Bald Mountain and the mouth of Little Naches River was once part of the historic Naches Pass pioneer trail over which James Longmire led a wagon train in 1853. Chinook Pass Highway was constructed in 1931 and White Pass Highway was constructed in 1951.

**BACKGROUND:** Many interesting trailheads are adjacent to this "Pass to Pass" loop. Newell Campbell's book, "A Geological Road Log of Chinook and White Passes" is your best guide to local geology. The road between Naches and Rimrock was built after 1910 but the old route to the upper lake generally followed present Tieton Road #1200. The old Tieton Highway, described as it was in 1916 by William O. Douglas in his book "Of Men and Mountains" can be accessed at Windy Point.

Drive slowly up the south side of the Tieton River on this road or simply park and hike. The tunnel at Westfall Rock was not cut until 1936 and White Pass was breached by a road in 1951. As you pass Tieton Dam you are seeing a structure which was once the highest earth filled dam in the world. In 1925 it was fittingly christened with apple juice, as this reservoir is part of the Yakima impoundment system which makes the Yakima Valley fruit industry possible.

Chinook Pass was cut in 1931. Dedication to Chinook Pass at Tipsoo Lake was long remembered because it was celebrated at the site by eating peaches and cream representing the meeting of the Yakima fruit industry and the West side dairy industry. See the many other routes off this highway loop, described above.

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Naches Ranger District  
U.S. Highway 12  
Naches, Washington 98937  
509-653-1400