

Bureau of Land Management
Tillamook Resource Area
P.O. Box 404
Tillamook, Oregon 97141

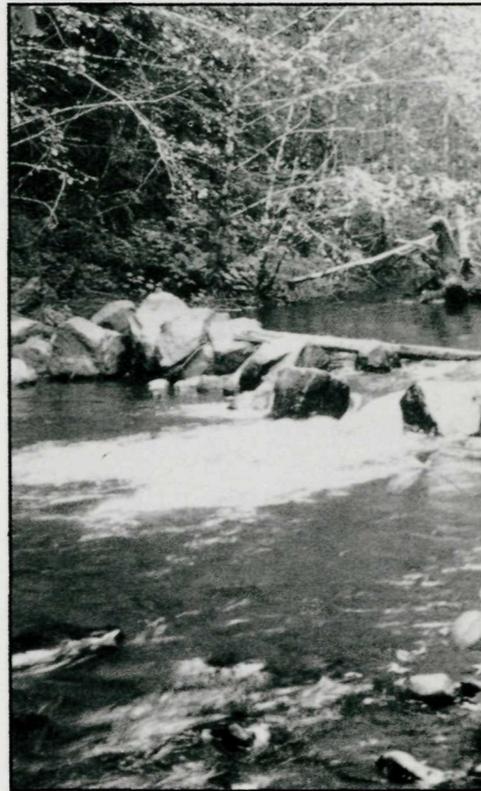
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Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

Nestucca River

National Back Country Byway



Salem District

Oregon BLM's Back Country Byways

Interested in exploring Oregon's back country, those places often overlooked by highway motorists on their way to well-known attractions?

For those with the time and desire to turn off the beaten track onto a country road, Oregon BLM's Back Country Byways provide access to a diversity of landscapes and attractions just waiting to be rediscovered. From forests to deserts, from mountains to canyons, the willing explorer can find some of Oregon's spectacular but lesser-known attractions.

Byways provide visitors the opportunity to view a variety of wildlife in its native habitat, explore remote and often historic areas, watch Native Americans dip net salmon, or photograph high desert plateaus and snow-capped mountains.

The opportunities for outdoor adventure and enjoyment are unlimited.

The idea for Byways came from a presidential study on recreation which said that 43 percent of all Americans consider driving for pleasure the most popular form of recreation in the country.

BLM's byways program meets this demand for pleasure driving, enhances recreation experiences and better informs visitors about the values of public lands.

But most of all, BLM Byways are a means to let travelers get away from it all and see some of the little-known areas that make Oregon unique and special.

The *Nestucca River National Back Country Byway* traverses the Oregon Coast Range following one of Oregon's most scenic rivers. It offers the traveler a leisurely route through a typical coastal forest and its varied attractions. Multiple land use of the area is well demonstrated in farm, forest, recreation, fisheries and wildlife management.

The Nestucca Canyon cuts through 40 million year old formations of basalt, siltstone and sandstone, with occasional exposed, large columnar basalt crystals in some areas. For the more adventurous, an alternate scenic loop drive takes one up to the summit of the Coast Range. At Sheridan Peak, a scenic viewpoint offers panoramic views of the Willamette Valley and snow-capped Cascade peaks from Mt. Rainier to the Three Sisters. Douglas-fir forests of varying ages line the upper elevations of the Byway. The western portion of the Byway passes by picturesque farms with pastures nestled against the foothills.

Wildflowers, in varied hues, border the roadway most of the year. They include columbine, foxglove, larkspur and tiger lilies. In autumn, vibrant red vine maple highlights the landscape. The river provides scenic falls and pools where Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead and trout can be viewed. Elk and deer are often seen in the area.

Five recreation sites provide easy access to the river, camping, drinking water and comfort stations. The Byway offers opportunities for a scenic afternoon drive or an extended visit to enjoy the scenic and recreational features of the area.

ACCESS

The Nestucca Back Country Byway is easily accessible and can be considered as a destination in itself or a less hurried alternative route between the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley.

The western access point is the town of Beaver, about 12 miles south of Tillamook on US Hwy 101. The west end of the alternate loop drive begins at the Bible Creek Road, approximately 16 miles east of Beaver. This loop drive may also be accessed via Gilbert Creek Road from Willamina, about 12 miles.

The eastern access point may be reached from Carlton by taking the Meadow Lake County Road west for about 12 miles to the beginning of the Nestucca River Access Road. The eastern end of the alternative loop begins at the Bald Mountain Road approximately 17 miles west of Carlton.

All but three miles of the Nestucca Byway is two lane paved road, the other being all weather rock road. The alternate loop route is a single lane paved road with frequent turnouts. Much of the route is winding and meant for slow, leisurely driving. Log truck traffic may be encountered throughout the year. The Byway is open year-round but may become hazardous or impassable for short periods of time because of snow and ice.

