

# WELCOME TO SANDY BAR RANCH!

A GUIDE TO SANDY BAR RANCH AND THE MID KLAMATH REGION



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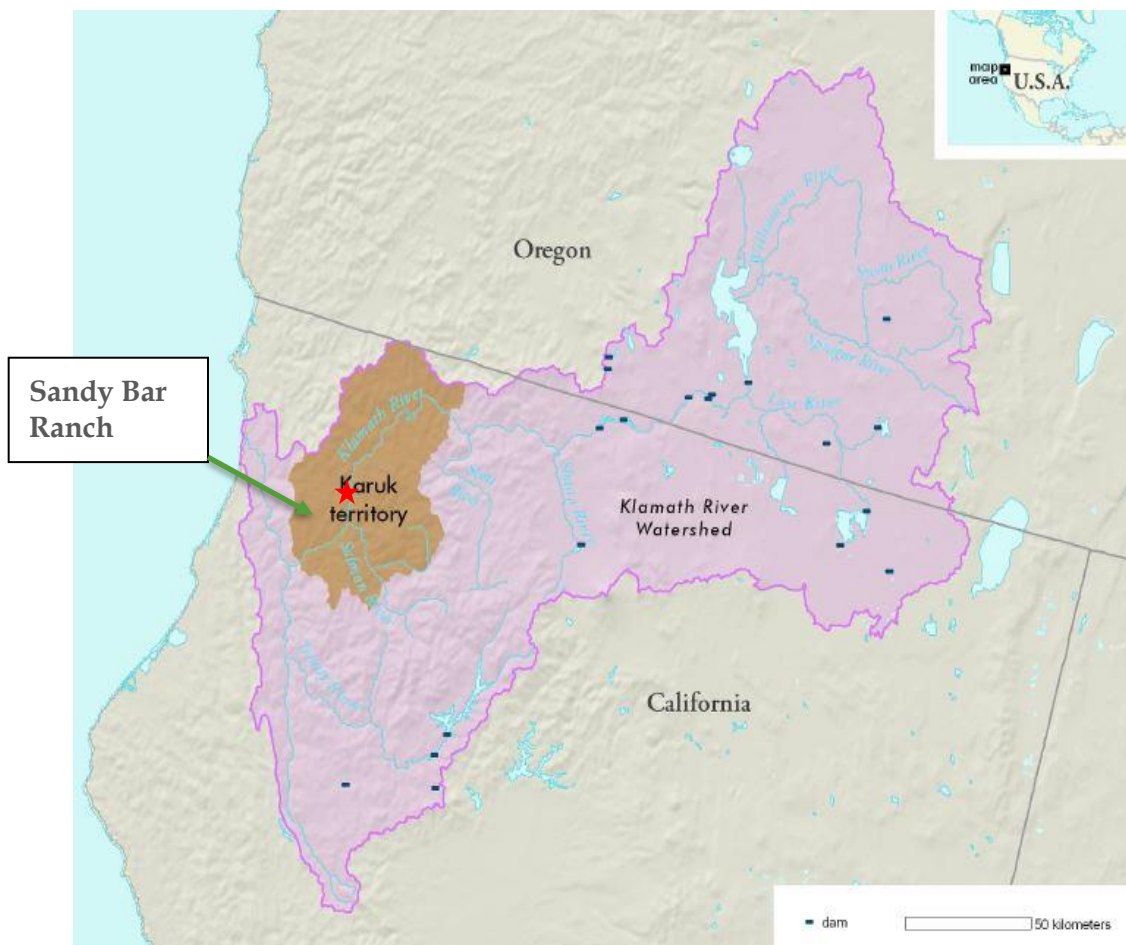
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# Where You're At

The Klamath River runs some 263 miles from the headwaters to the ocean, Sandy Bar Ranch is located 75 river miles from the Pacific. The Klamath River Watershed encompasses 15,751 square miles, with 35% in Oregon and 65% in California. The Ancestral territory of the Karuk Tribe covers 138 million acres of the Mid Klamath Region. An ecological crossroads between the Sierras to the south, the Cascades to the north, the great basin on the east and the coastal Pacific on the west, this is one of the most diverse temperate forest regions on the planet, containing the highest conifer diversity found anywhere in the world. It is designated as a World Conservation Union global center of plant diversity, a World Wildlife Fund Global 2000 ecoregion, and has been proposed for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designation as a biosphere reserve. The sparsely populated Mid Klamath includes four major wilderness areas, miles of winding rivers, granite canyons and hiking trails to explore.

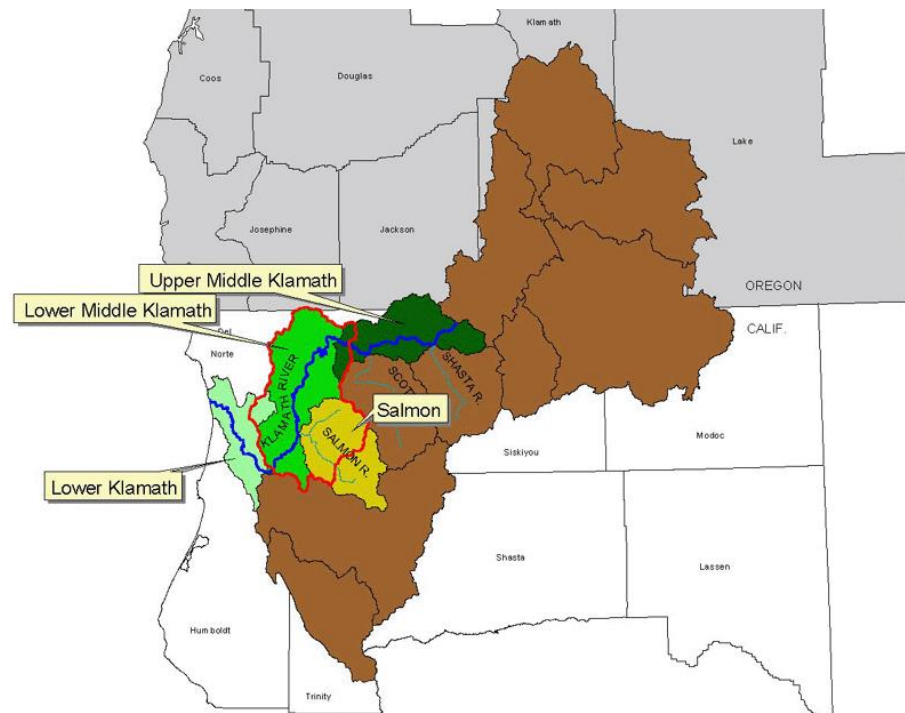


## The Klamath River Watershed



## Natural History of the Klamath Region

The forces of time, geology, climate and topography have converged upon the Klamath over millennium to shape a truly unique ecological region. The Klamath River is the second largest river in California and one of only four rivers that connect the Eastern Cascades to the Pacific Ocean (the other three being the Columbia, the Pit and the Frazer). The watershed is comprised of an upper and lower basin whose dividing line is close to the California-Oregon border. Many have referred to the Klamath as an upside down river: unlike most rivers that originate in high, steep mountain ranges, and then pass through flat alluvial plains, the upper Klamath basin is a relatively flat, high elevation plain with farm and ranch land. When the river crosses the I-5 corridor just below the border it enters the Klamath mountain ranges, where its personality shifts dramatically. From here to the ocean the river is fed by more than 60 snow-fed tributaries originating from surrounding peaks that reach up to 9,000 feet; the gradient of the river increases and what was a slow channel meandering through flat ag land becomes a noisy river plunging through steep canyons and boulder-strewn whitewater rapids.



Sub Basins of the Klamath Watershed

The Klamath has followed its path for millions of years, even as geologic forces have uplifted

the mountains around it, it's flow has persisted in carving a path to the Pacific, resulting in a river that is much older than the mountains it cuts through, evident in the steep, V-shaped inner gorge that highway 96 follows along the river's edge. From I-5 the Klamath descends through some 260 million years of geology. The mountains themselves have been formed by eons of tectonic activity, as the Pacific plate slides under the North American plate, large chunks of ocean floor, granitic batholiths and a mélange of rock has been scraped, twisted and uplifted into the existing ranges, which is likely to keep geologists scratching their heads for many years to come. A quick stroll on the river bar below the cabins reveals evidence of all this, you'll find speckled granitic rocks that originated from plutons cooled deep under the surface, ultramafic rocks for the earth's mantle that are so high in iron that they rust, deep green serpentine rocks soft enough to scratch, as well as schists, quartz, and others that time and water have washed

down mountains and canyons. This diversity of rock has resulted in a diversity of soils; likewise the steep, multi-faceted topography has yielded an array of microclimates from the hot valley floors to the alpine peaks; from cool, moist, conifer forests, to hot, dry chaparral, and everything in between.

With its sparse population, extensive wild and roadless areas, and uniquely adapted fish runs, the Klamath presents one of the best opportunities for fisheries restoration in the continental US, and a diverse array of agencies and groups including the Karuk Tribe, the Forest Service, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, CA Department of Fish and Game, US Fish & Wildlife collaborate on protecting and restoring the Klamath Salmon populations and the habitat upon which they depend.

**An Ecological Crossroads** – The Klamath region straddles several dramatically different ecologies and serves as an ecological crossroads for many plant and animal species. As Luke Ruediger explains in “The Siskiyou Crest”:

Migrating Plant species have spilled into the Siskiyou from the high mountain forests of the Cascade and Sierra mountain chains. They have come from the sagebrush of the Great Basin, and from the arid woodlands of interior California, as well as the fog-drenched redwoods of Northern California and the conifer forests of the Pacific Northwest... Each successive migratory wave spread its influence during favorable climatic conditions, only to be isolated in some unique microclimate or soil type as the species receded under conditions less favorable to its survival. Due to this pattern, an astonishing number of species reach their geographical limits in these mountains. The southernmost stands of Alaska yellow Cedar, Pacific Silver Fir and Englemann spruce are sheltered in moist, cool, locations much like those found in the high Cascades. Also, the northernmost stands of many chaparral species cling to rock and exposed sites or the open valley bottoms, thriving in the hot, Mediterranean summers. These species include gray pine, buckbrush, manzanita, California buckeye, and holy leaf coffeeberry to name a few.

See the **Book List** at the end of this booklet for more suggested reading.

## Cultural History, Karuk Ancestral Territory

The following excerpt is from a display on Karuk culture at the Orleans Ranger station:

The Klamath River Region of Northwestern California is the Karuk Ancestral homeland. Living in scattered family home sites along the Klamath River, the Karuk people developed a ceremonial and subsistence economy based on salmon, deer, acorns and other plant and animal staples found in the area.

Our history of contact is similar to that of tribes across the country – one characterized by invasions, burned villages, genocide and decimation by introduced diseases. Until 1850, Karuk people had very little contact with non-Indians. At that time, our lands were invaded and claimed first by gold miners, then by fur traders, loggers, ranchers, and other settlers. Survivors of this initial invasion escaped into the mountains, moving from the Klamath River up the Salmon and Scott Rivers and Quartz Valley.

In 1850 some 2,700 Karuk lived in the Klamath River region. By 1900 that number declined to approximately 750 survivors. Today enrolled membership of the Karuk Tribe is over 3,500. The Karuk Tribe became federally recognized in 1979. Karuk lands presently consist of 1,270 acres, compared to the 1.2 million acres identified as original ancestral lands.

The display has information on Karuk cultural resources, including an exhibit of Karuk basketry, famous for its fine detail and craftsmanship. The People's Center Museum in Happy Camp also has exhibits and displays on Karuk culture.

The ancient past of the Karuk tribe extends firmly into the present and future of the Mid Klamath. Karuk tribal members and descendants make up a significant portion of the local population, who continue their subsistence and cultural practices today. Ceremonial dances are still held throughout the region, and some areas are off limits at certain times of the year. The Karuk Tribe gained federal recognition in 1979, and now employs over 100 people in administrative, child welfare, community/economic development, education, elders, energy assistance, health, housing, human services and natural resources programs that serve both native and non-natives of the Mid Klamath region. The Karuk Department of Natural Resources work to protect, enhance and restore the cultural/natural resources and ecological processes upon which Karuk people depend. Natural Resources staff ensure that the integrity of natural ecosystem processes and traditional values are incorporated into resource management strategies.

## About Sandy Bar Ranch

...And the next day, with an equally glorious sun and blue sky, we rode into Orleans.

"Ayukii" shouted the Sandy Bars as we rode by their flat.

"Ayukii" we shouted in return as we waved to them and rode by.

-From "The Land of the Grasshopper Song", 1908-09

Carl & Jeannie Maldewin purchased Sandy Bar Ranch in 1948, and built the cabins in 1950. Carl's solid craftsmanship and sharp eye are evident in the construction of the cabins, using clear grain redwood for the structure and old growth Douglas fir for the flooring. While the cabins have been refurbished from the inside out, we have kept the same basic cabin footprint and layout; a simple, efficient design with an aesthetically pleasing rustic feel. Back in 1950 Highway 96 was not yet paved and there was no electricity. Fisherman typically rented cabins for several weeks at a time. Laverne Glaze purchased Sandy Bar Ranch in 1971. As a traditional basketweaver and CIBA (California Indian Basketweavers Association) member, Laverne was an important voice in the Mid Klamath and beyond for the preservation and management of Karuk culture and resources. Laverne passed away in the fall of 2017 and is widely missed. We had the good fortune of having both the Maldewins and Laverne living nearby for many years, passing along to us stories of Sandy Bar Ranch and the surrounding area.

The photo to the right is dated 1908 and shows Sandy Bar Jim and Carrie Roberts in front of what is now the office house (note the cedar shingles on the wall that are still in place now.) To the best of our knowledge, the Sandy Bar Indians were forced off of their land on Red Camp Rd. by miners after 1850, and then settled here. Sandy Bar Jim was a respected Karuk elder and Carrie Johnson was of Yurok descent.



Carrie Roberts and Sandy Bar Jim, 1908



This photo of Sandy Bar Ranch from 1914 shows the office house and the old Orleans Bridge in the background, which was destroyed in 1936, one of 6 suspension bridges that have spanned the Klamath there over the years. The current one was built after the 64 flood. Check out Big Rock, visible on the opposite bank of the river.



Sandy Bar Ranch, 1914



## About Us

Though we were both born in New Jersey, we met at a village market in Guatemala in 1990, where Mark was working on an agricultural project. In 1992 we set out from the Bay Area looking for a place somewhere to the north. Once we found Orleans and Sandy Bar Ranch we fell in love and looked no further. We soon realized we were moving to the center of a separate universe with a powerful cultural and natural history of its own. We planted a large garden, got goats and chickens, and for many years ran a mail order fruit tree nursery, shipping bare root plants throughout the country. Over the years we have hosted workshops on permaculture, wild mushrooms, green woodworking, blacksmithing, organic agriculture and other topics, as well as an annual acoustic music gathering. In 2000 we joined forces with several other community members to help found the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, and have served ever since on the board of directors and staff. We feel truly blessed to live in this beautiful place with its wild spaces, dynamic community and unique character, and we enjoy sharing it with others.

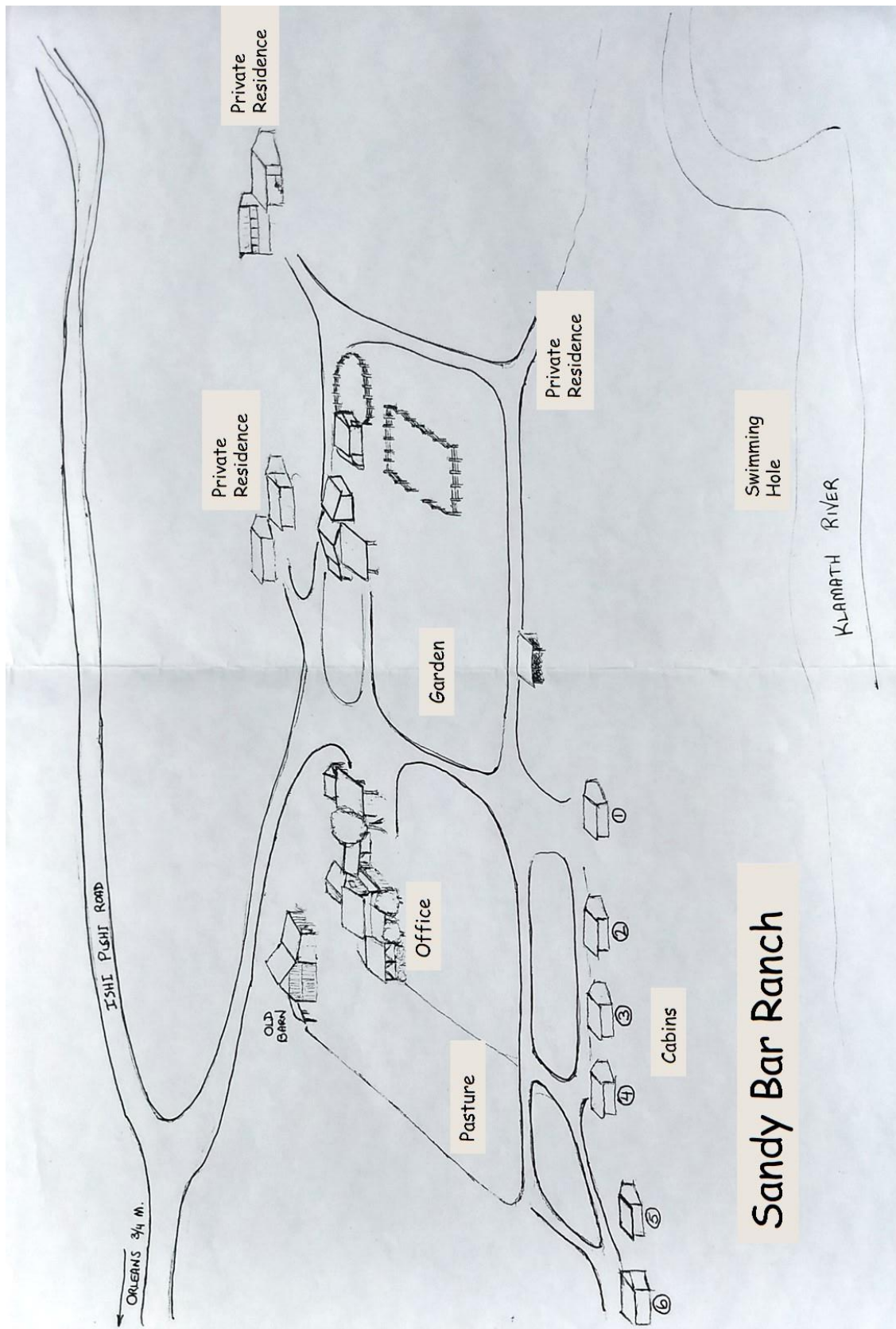


Blythe Reis

Mark DuPont

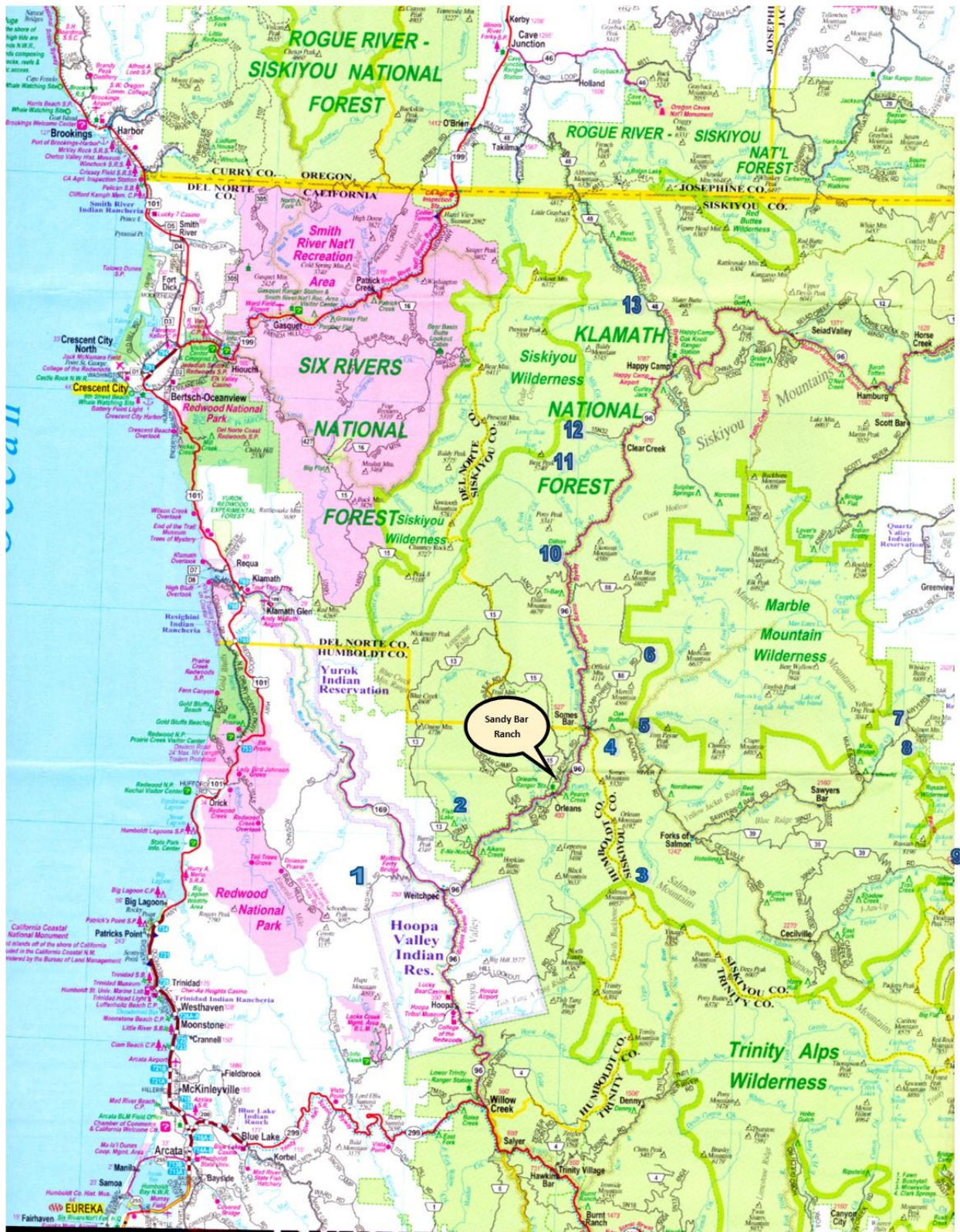
## On and Around the Ranch

The stretch of river below the cabins is great for a short stroll. Depending on the day, you might see river otters, bald eagles, hawks, blue herons, mink, or any number of migrating or resident birds. The swim spot is slightly upriver, where Peach Creek spills into the Klamath River on the far bank, near a big, beautiful rock that's great for jumping off. If you want to stretch your legs without having to get in the car then Ishi Pishi Rd is a nice walk. Turn right at the top of our driveway, about a half mile up the road you'll see a dump/transfer station on the left, and just across from it on the right, a road that leads down to Bondo Mine River Access, another nice stretch of river bar. Or stay on Ishi Pishi and just a short way further you'll see a small, inconspicuous wooden sign on the left for Prospect Trail, which winds up, up, up the hillside, passing some interesting old flumes and ponds from the mining days 150 years ago. The trail continues all the way up to the GO road check with us at the ranch, or the Orleans Ranger Station for current conditions. . A left turn at the top of our driveway brings you into the town of Orleans. Just before the highway you'll find the Orleans Ranger Station on the left, with maps and information on the area. Across the highway, adjacent to the Post Office, is the Mid Klamath Watershed Council, (MKWC). Just inside, there's a nice, small natural history display case near the entry. 3 ½ miles north of Orleans on 96 you'll see a sign on the left that marks a short trail down to the confluence of Whitmore Creek and the Klamath River.



Map of Sandy Bar Ranch





Points of Interest, Mid Klamath Region

## Some Points of Interest, Mid Klamath Region

The following map highlights a few points of interest in the Mid Klamath region mentioned in this guide, there are many more to explore, but this should help orient you to the area.

1. **Bald Hills Rd.** — Back road to Redwood National Park, scenic drive over grassland meadows, elk & wildlife, ocean views, 1 hour 45 minutes to route 101, 5 miles is dirt, but generally fine for 2 WD passenger vehicles, check for conditions in winter.
2. **Fish Lake/ Blue Lake** — Mid elevation lakes set under conifer forests.
3. **Salmon Summit/ Red Cap Lake trailhead** — High elevation trailhead into Trinity Alps Wilderness.
4. **Salmon River** — Wild and Scenic Watershed originating on the Pacific Crest and meeting the Klamath eight miles north of here; miles of winding canyons, creeks, swimming holes and trails to explore, including the Marble Mt. And Russian Wilderness areas.
5. **Wooley Creek** — Closest wilderness trailhead, 20 minute drive, easy trail that leads many miles into the Marble Mts.
6. **Haypress Meadows Trailhead** — 1.5 hour drive to high elevation trailhead that leads to meadows, Marble Rim Trail, and alpine lakes.
7. **Etna Summit/ PCT** - North Fork Salmon River Rd., 2 hour plus driving time.
8. **Carter Meadows Summit/ PCT** — South Fork Salmon River Rd., 2 hour plus driving time.
9. **Taylor Lake** — Alpine lake near Etna Summit, easy trail access, 2 hour drive from here.
10. **Dillon Creek** — Beautiful swimming hole above Dillon Creek Campground 45 minutes upriver.
11. **Bear Peak/ Bear Lakes** — High elevation trailhead into Siskiyou Wilderness.
12. **Clear Creek** — Deep gorge carved by wilderness tributary in Siskiyou Wilderness.
13. **Grayback/ Happy Camp — Obrien Rd.** — A scenic, paved shortcut to I-5 for those heading north to Eugene/Portland, leads up over the high Siskiyou, closed in winter.

Road and trail conditions vary considerably from season to season – always inquire about current conditions before heading out on a backcountry road or trail. Stop in or call the Orleans Ranger Station, (530) 627-3379



## Things to Do

**The Cabana** is the covered area adjacent to the office, a nice place to hang out and use the internet; there's a ping pong table, bocce, croquet & other lawn games available at the office house. We also have an assortment of books for loan at the main house.

**WiFi** - Is available at the office house, you can set up in the cabana or in the shade on the lawn and access the Internet on your own laptop; the password is posted on the whiteboard on the porch.

**Swimming** -It's a short walk down to the river just below the cabins, the swimming hole is just slightly upriver, where Peach Creek enters the Klamath on the opposite bank. The Salmon River also has lots of swimming holes to explore.

**Hiking** - Whether it's a short walk or a long hike you're looking for we can point you in the right direction. A short walk down Ishi Pishi Rd. leads to Bondo Mine Access by the river or the Prospect Trail upslope. It's a twenty minute drive to Wooley Creek the closest wilderness trailhead. The Orleans Ranger Station is also just 3/4 miles down the road and offers a variety of maps and information. A longer drive will take you to high elevation trailheads leading to mountain lakes.

**White Water Rafting & Kayaking** - We can arrange rafting trips to suit any taste, from mild to wild. Whether it's a mellow class 2 to 3 run, or a more challenging class 4-5 run, you'll be accompanied by expert, certified guides and see the river from a whole new perspective.

**Fishing** - The Klamath River is famous for its fall run of Steelhead from early fall through the winter months. Contact us for the latest on river conditions and fishing reports. We can also put you in touch with local guides with expert knowledge of the river.

**Salmon River Outpost** an awesome little country store located just ¼ upriver from the Salmon River Rd. with a good selection of food, beverages, gear and books on the area. Their motto: Better Than You Expected.

**High Elevation Trailheads** - Pack a lunch the night before and head out early for one of several high elevation trailheads that leads to alpine meadows and lakes in surrounding wilderness areas; plan on a full day excursion there and back, be sure to have maps, water, etc.

**The Redwood Coast** - Redwood National Park is a 1.5 hour drive from here via Bald Hills Rd. A scenic backroad takes you through meadows where you may spot elk, bear, osprey or eagle, leading down to Ladybird Johnson Redwood Grove and many more trails accessing the coast and redwoods.

**Scenic Byways** - Later in this booklet we describe three scenic byway routes, Bald Hills Rd. to the Redwood Coast, Greyback Rd. over the high Siskiyou, and the Salmon River Rds., that can serve as a daytrip excursion or a scenic route to or from Sandy Bar Ranch.

**Bicycling** - Highway 96 and the nearby Salmon River Road have minimal traffic and will take you through some of the most scenic cycling country in the state, winding through river canyons and gorges, passing swimming holes and offering spectacular vistas.

**Crafts** - A variety of crafts are for sale in the office, many grown and produced right here on the ranch.

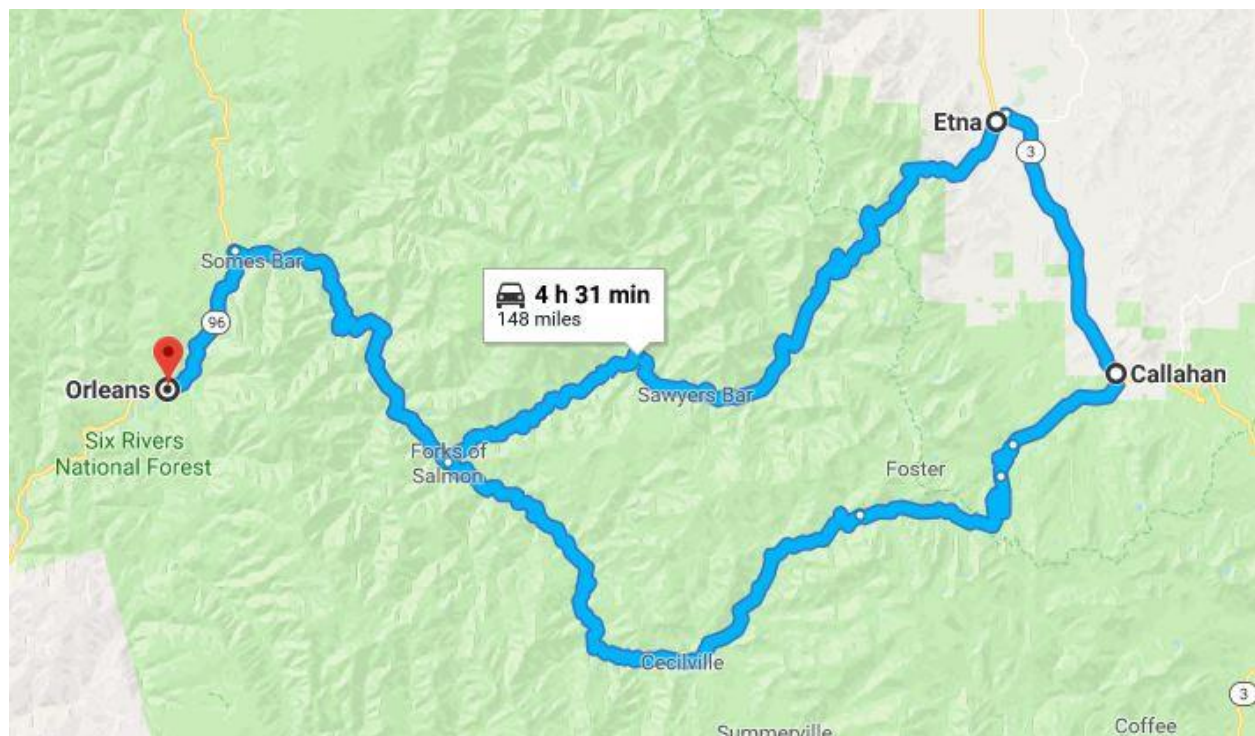


## Exploring the Area

The Mid Klamath offers trips varying from a quick walk to a long day of exploring, and everything in between. The shorter trips for the most part are easy, on well-marked roads and trails. For the longer forays you'll want sturdy footwear, sun or rain protection (depending on weather), snacks and plenty of water. It's also a good idea to leave an itinerary with someone for the longer remote hikes. These mountains are wild and rugged, so don't underestimate them, once off the beaten path, you'll be far from any traffic or crossroads. The maps in this guide will steer you in the right direction, if you plan to explore the backroads and/or do some backcountry hiking. You can obtain maps at the Orleans Ranger Station and the Salmon River Outpost, or ask us about a loaner. GPS apps such as Gaia GPS, Garmin Earthmate are great for knowing where you are. AllTrails lists several hiking trails in our area but remember there is no cell reception out here so you'll need to download the maps ahead of time.

### The Salmon River

Eight miles upriver from us the Wild and Scenic Salmon River enters the Klamath. This spectacular watershed encompasses 750 square miles of winding canyons and side creeks and includes parts of the Marble Mountain, Russian and Trinity Alps Wilderness areas.



**Salmon River Loop, North & South Forks, Scott Valley**

The **Salmon River Outpost** is an awesome little country store (motto: "Better than you expected!"), where you'll find a surprising selection of food, snacks, and beverages and even espresso! No gas though, so fill up in Orleans. The store is 8 miles north on highway 96 just ¼ mile upriver from the junction of the Salmon and Klamath Rivers, (Ishi Pishi Rd. actually forms a loop, and meets with Highway 96 right at the store). If you follow Ishi Pishi Rd. down from

the store for a ¼ mile you'll come to a high bridge with a great view of the junction of the Klamath and Salmon Rivers. A trail under the bridge leads to the confluence.



### Lower Salmon River

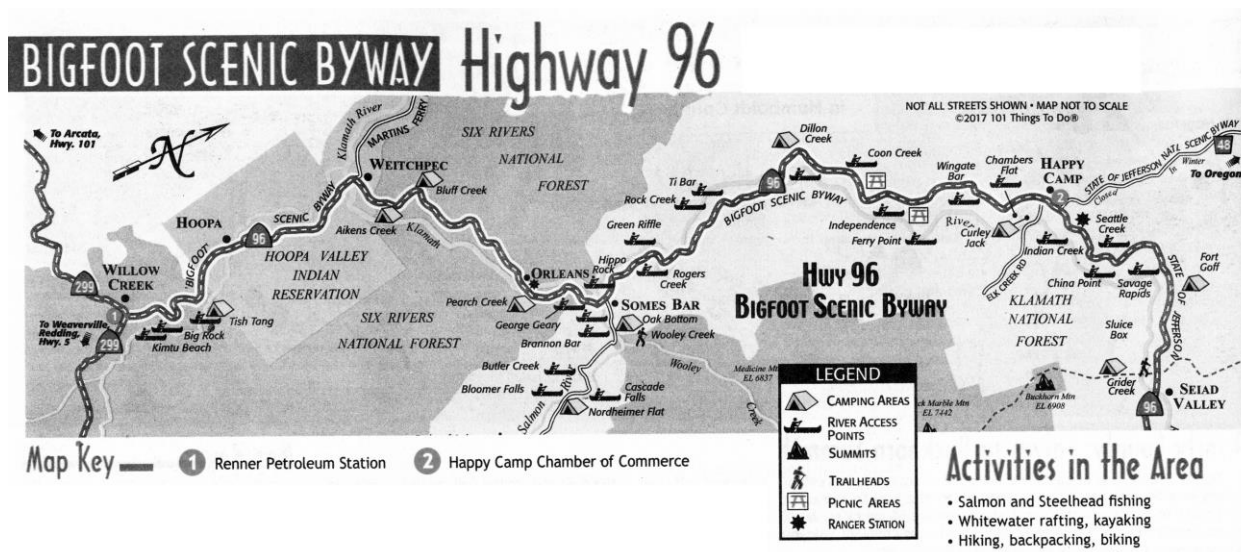
The Salmon River Rd. follows the river all the way to the Pacific Crest, with lots to explore along the way. River accesses are clearly marked with signs, the closest one being **Blue Hole**. At 3 miles there's a sign for **Branons Bar River Access** on the right, and **Wooley Creek trailhead** on the left. Starting at 800 ft, this is the lowest elevation wilderness trailhead in Northern CA. Wooley Creek is a wild and major tributary of the Salmon River that falls entirely within the Marble Mountain Wilderness. The trail follows the creek for 26 miles, past granite bouldered swim holes and the historic Fowler cabin at 10 miles, eventually reaching the Pacific Crest.

At 7 miles the Salmon River road narrows to one lane, with steep drop offs and no guard rail, so this stretch is not for the faint of heart. At approximately 9 miles you'll

see a small sign on the left (easier spotted when heading downriver) at a pullout that indicates the trail down to **Cascade Falls**. At 17 miles you reach the small town of Forks of Salmon, where the river divides into a north and south fork. The North Fork leads through the hamlet of **Sawyers Bar** and up to **Etna Summit**, with the **Marble Mountains** to the left and the **Russians** to the right; while the South Fork continues through **Cecilville** and up to the **Carter Meadows Summit** and the Trinity Alps.

If, after your stay, you are heading for points east of here towards I-5, and in no particular hurry, you might consider the Salmon River Road as an alternative route. Realize that there are absolutely no services of any kind along the way, indeed less than 300 people live in the watershed, so you'll want to stock up on food, water and gas before you go. It's also possible to make a loop, heading out one fork, down through Scott Valley on the east side, and back the other fork, but this is 4 hours plus of driving time round trip from Sandy Bar Ranch.

## The Klamath River Corridor, Weitchpec to Happy Camp



The Klamath River Corridor, from 101 Things to Do, Humboldt, [www.101Things.com](http://www.101Things.com)

**Upriver to Happy Camp.** The stretch of 96 from Some's Bar to Happy Camp was not paved until the 1970's and still has no power lines today. The road is now paved and parallels the river for some great scenery. Along the way are marked river access points and dirt roads that provide access to high elevation trailheads. About 5 miles north of Some's Bar the road crosses two high bridges at a dramatic series of curves in the river; just prior to the second bridge is a sign that marks **Halverson Creek trail**, which leads along the banks of the Klamath to Ice Cream Riffle, a nice fly-fishing spot. A few miles further up the highway is a sign marking **Rock Creek trail**, which leads to another nice fishing spot along the Klamath. About 20 miles north of Some's Bar is **Dillon Creek campground**. A trail on the river side leads down to the confluence of Dillon Creek and the Klamath, while another trail located within the campground leads upslope to a gorgeous pool and waterfall that's a great place to swim and explore. A \$5 day use fee is required in the campground. About 36 miles upriver from Orleans is Wingate Bar River Access, on the river side of the road. From the west side of the highway, Forest Service Road 15N32 winds up to the beautiful scenic gorge of **Clear Creek**, which flows from the Siskiyou Wilderness. Follow the signs to Clear Creek trailhead (take the left fork at 1.6 miles, trailhead is about 6.8 miles from the highway), a 1 mile hike takes you to a beautiful spot where the aqua-blue waters of Clear Creek cut a deep gorge, making a great destination for a day trip. Allow at least 1 hour and 15 minutes for driving each way. Continuing up 96, **Happy Camp** is located 45 miles north of Orleans, about an hour's drive. With a population of 1,200, you'll find more amenities than Orleans, including the Kingfisher Market for groceries; The Happy Camp Ranger District office on highway 96, which has maps and info on the area; The Pizza House; and the **Karuk Tribe's Peoples Center Museum** and Gift Shop, dedicated to the preservation, promotion and celebration of Karuk history, language, traditions and living culture.

**Downriver from Orleans** are a few river accesses, mid slope campgrounds and trails worth a visit. Five miles south of town a sign marks **Red Cap Creek access**, a trail which leads down to a secluded spot on the Klamath with good fishing spots. Eight miles south a sign marks Forest



Service road 13, which leads upslope; at 5.4 miles a turn to the right leads to **Fish Lake**, and straight ahead the road leads to **Blue Lake** (6.5 miles from the highway). A quick glance around from the Blue lake parking area reveals why this forest is so unique, from here you can see at least six species of canopy trees, including Interior Live oak, Douglas fir, Chinquapin, Port Orford Cedar, Tan Oak, and slightly off the road, Sugar Pine. This area receives influence from the cool, coastal region, visible in the lush understory of rhododendron, salal, and evergreen and deciduous huckleberry. There's even a solitary Pacific yew tree near the south end of the loop trail that goes around Blue Lake.

Fish Lake has sunfish and stocked trout, and hosts an annual Forest Service sponsored fishing derby each June. The developed campground has vault toilets and picnic tables, the lake is a popular summer destination, you'll need a raft to fish as the shore is lined with water hyacinths.

A 3.7 mile trail system connects Blue and Fish Lakes, passing by Red Mt. Lake where you spot carnivorous sundew plants (*Drosera, sp.*) on lakeside logs if you look closely. **Aikens Creek Campground**, just upriver of the Fish lake turnoff, provides fishing access to the Klamath River and highlights an ongoing major fish restoration project

NOTE – The area around Blue Lake has been infected with Port Orford Cedar Root disease pathogen *Phytophthora lateralis*, travel is restricted during the rainy season and the road is closed to prevent spread of the pathogen. If you visit the area during the wet season be sure to avoid mud by staying on gravel pathways and the raised walkways around the lake, do not track any mud out. If you will be visiting any other area with Port Orford Cedar it will be necessary to steam clean your vehicle to prevent spreading the pathogen.

Road and trail conditions vary considerably from season to season – always inquire about current conditions before heading out on a backcountry road or trail. Stop in or call the Orleans Ranger Station, (530) 627-3379

## Day Trips – Driving Tours and Hiking Excursions

### Conifer Country: High Elevation Wilderness Trailheads

Highway 96 runs along the bottom of a steep, windy, inner gorge of the Klamath River, which conceals the view of a vast and majestic high country located upslope. Four Wilderness areas lie within striking distance of Orleans: The **Trinity Alps** to the east, **The Marble Mountains** and **Russians** up the Salmon River, and the **Siskiyou Wilderness** to the northwest. Here you'll find another world of high mountain meadows, snowy peaks and sweeping vistas. Trailheads approached from this area are some of the least used in the state, and often you'll have the trail all to yourself. None of these are far as the crow flies, but all require driving from 1.5 to 2.5 hours one way on windy dirt roads. These are well worth a visit if you have the time and inclination, but you'll need to plan ahead, pack food and water and get an early start. GPS apps such as Gaia GPS, Garmin Earthmate are great, you'll need to download the local map layers. AllTrails lists several hiking trails in the area but bear in mind there is no cell reception here, so you'll need to download the route over WIFI. Don't rely on Google Maps around here – it's possible to download maps over WIFI, but you're likely to lose your route, and then you'll be stuck without reception. It's also a good idea to leave us your planned itinerary. **Expect snow at these elevations from late fall to early summer, it's a good idea to ask about current conditions at the Orleans Ranger station before heading out.**

If you plan on exploring the high country be sure to check out the book "Conifer Country" by Michael Kauffman, available for sale or loan in our office. The Klamath Mountains have more conifer diversity than anywhere else in the world, hosting 35 different species. Michael Kauffman tells the story of how this came to be in this wonderful combination field/ hiking guide. The book starts with an explanation of what makes this part of the world so unique, its peculiar mix of geology, topography, climate and history. It then goes on to profile each of the 35 Klamath conifer species, and best of all, guides you to specific trails where you can see them. Even better, you can access his website to download more detailed notes on each hike. Highly recommended for the curious naturalist.



View from Marble Rim Trail, Marble Mountain Wilderness

**Haypress Meadows** - After Wooley Creek, Haypress Meadows is the next closest trailhead. Even so, allow an hour and 15 minutes driving time. To get there, take the very first left on the Salmon River Road (it comes up quickly) known as Camp Three Rd. and marked as 88, or 15N17, on the Klamath National Forest Map. Follow signs to Haypress Meadows trailhead. The trail leads through Haypress Meadows and hits the Marble Rim at approximately three miles, with sweeping views of the high country. You'll see ample evidence of the dynamic fire regime of the Klamath Mountains, fire has passed through this country for many years, leaving a patchwork mosaic of green forest, upland scrub and chaparral, and stands of snags and partially burned trees providing a diversity of complex habitat and regeneration. At 6 miles you reach beautiful monument lake, the first of many along the Marble Rim trail. Use Marble Mountain Wilderness and Klamath National Forest maps.

**Taylor Lake** - The easy, level, half mile trail to Taylor Lake brings you to an alpine lake via such an easy route it feels like cheating. At two hours of driving you can barely justify it for a day trip, but you'll see some beautiful country along the way, and pass through the tiny, historic town of Sawyers Bar. Take the North Fork of the Salmon River Road and look for the signed road just before the Etna Summit. If you decide to take this route to I-5 then this is a nice side trip. A steeper trail leads past Taylor to Hogan Lake, and from there it's a 1,000 foot cross country ascent to Big Blue Lake. Use Marble Mountain/ Russian Wilderness map.

**Bear Lakes/Bear Peak Botanical Area** - 35.5 miles north of Orleans, turn west on forest road 15N19. At 3.5 miles stay left at signed 15N24, and after 6.5 miles the road turns to dirt and back into 15N19. At 11.7 miles you'll see the turnoff to the trailhead just past a saddle. The Siskiyou Wilderness is one of the least entered in the lower 48, and you're likely to have the place to yourself. This is a great place to see three rare Klamath conifers, Brewer's Spruce (a remnant species leftover from previous ice ages), Pacific yew, and the Alaska Yellow Cedar, which reaches its southern limit in the Siskiyou and is found in a diminutive form. This is hike number 8 in the Conifer Country book by Michael Kauffman, available for loan at our office or for sale at the Salmon River outpost, and an excellent companion to any high country hikes in the Klamaths. Use Klamath national Forest/ Siskiyou Wilderness maps.

**Salmon Summit, Red Cap Lake** - Salmon Summit is the highest point in Humboldt County and this hike leads through a seldom visited part of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. It's a great place to visit the rugged high country, spot wildflowers in the spring, view the diversity of Klamath conifers and enjoy solitude and mountain vistas, but use caution as the trail is hard to find in places, we recommend using a GPS app on your phone. The trail starts at 5400 feet and climbs 3.5 miles to Salmon Summit at 9,656 ft. a worthy destination, or if you're feeling more ambitious you can plunge down the other side another couple of miles to Red Cap Lake, pretty, but a bit shallow for swimming. This is hike number 23 in the Conifer Country book. Directions: Cross the Orleans bridge and make an immediate right onto Red Cap Rd. Follow this road 19 miles to the trailhead. The first few miles the road passes homes, a few vineyards and some farmland. It then turns uphill and the name changes to forest road 10N01. The road gets rough in a few places and is gravel for the last four miles.



**The Miracle Mile** - OK, so this one does not quite qualify as a day hike, it would be a stretch to get out there and back in a day, but if you're interested in the ecology of the Klamath Mountains it's worth knowing about. This hike showcases the conifer diversity of the Klamaths and might be the only hike in the world where you can see 17 different species in one hike. This is hike number 15 in Conifer Country; the guidebook leads from a trailhead on the east side of the Klamaths, outside of Etna, but we can direct you to Music Creek trailhead from this side, it's a drive of over 2 hours, and the trail goes right through the Whites Gulch fire of 2014. If you're interested check with us for details.

**The Pacific Crest Trail** - The PCT runs 2,600 miles from Mexico to Canada, and crosses roads at two places just to the east of us: Etna Summit on the North Fork Salmon River Rd, and Carter Meadows/ Callahan Summit on the South Fork Salmon River Road. Each is about a two hour scenic drive through the meandering canyons of the Salmon River. It's easy to hop on the trail in either of these spots, take in the vistas from the crest, and walk as long as you like; you might even encounter some through hikers depending on the time of year.

Road and trail conditions vary considerably from season to season – always inquire about current conditions before heading out on a backcountry road or trail. Stop in or call the Orleans Ranger Station, (530) 627-3379

## Scenic Byways and Alternate Routes

These trips can serve as alternative routes to or from Sandy Bar Ranch, affording the opportunity to see more of NW California. The trip to the Redwood Coast is a popular day trip.

### The Redwood Coast via Bald Hills Rd.

Located directly east of Orleans as the crow flies, the Redwood Coast includes miles of dramatic coastline and hiking trails. It's a beautiful area, but also popular destination, so route 101 can be a busy place in the summer months. The coast tends to be foggy and chilly in the summer, so bring layers. The Bald Hills Road connects the Klamath River, with the Redwood Coast via a gorgeous drive through a section of Redwood National Park that few visitors know, including grassy meadows and, sweeping views of the ocean. If you drive it in spring you may be lucky enough to catch the lupines in bloom. This is one of our favorite drives and a great way to see the redwoods and also get off the beaten path, we recommend it to customers often. Bald Hills Rd. is mostly paved, with 5 miles of dirt road at the summit, but it's well maintained and passable by 2-wheel drive vehicles. Call us or check with the Redwood National Park service for current road conditions.



**Lupines in bloom, Bald Hills Rd, Redwood National Park.**

Drive 13 miles south on highway 96, turn right on highway 169 (before crossing the bridge to the Weitchpec store, a good place to gas up and ask about road conditions in winter months). Drive 5 miles down to the Martins Ferry Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn left and you're on Bald Hills Rd., follow it all the way to Redwood National Park. After driving through the Bald Hills you'll descend into the Redwoods, passing Redwood Creek Overlook on the left and then Ladybird Johnson Grove with hiking trails through the redwoods. If you're taking a day trip be sure to leave early; you have the option of driving back 101 – 299 – 96 if you want to re-supply in Arcata or McKinleyville.



Redwood National Park



Once you hit highway 101 you have lots of options for exploring the Redwood Coast, with your main limitation being time. You may see elk along the highway on either route. If you are taking a day trip and plan to return to Sandy Bar Ranch then we recommend limiting your destinations to one or two, in order to maximize your time out of the car.

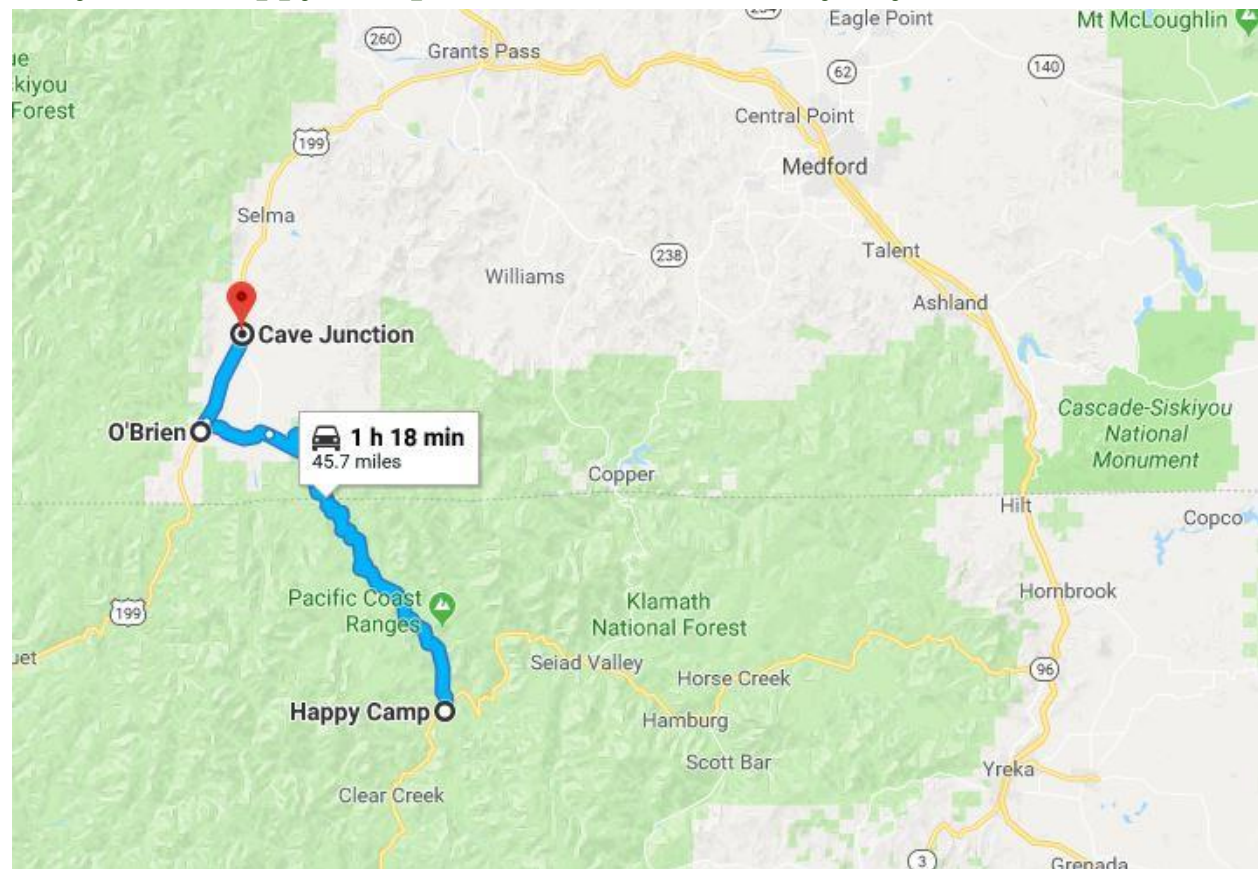
Turning right (north) on 101 leads you past elk viewing and to the Park and hiking trails in the redwoods. Turning left (south) 101 bypasses the redwoods for easy coastal access to miles of beachcombing. You can plan your return back the way you came or drive down to Arcata for supplies, a bite to eat, and return via 299 – 96.

**North 101** – At 0.3 miles after turning right on 101 you'll see a sign on the left of the highway for the Coastal Trail, Skunk Cabbage trailhead. This trail leads 4 miles to a secluded beach through a lush Sitka Spruce forest (no redwoods along this route). This is a good option if you prefer to spend your time hiking rather than driving, are not attached to seeing the redwoods, and want to avoid the crowds. At 1.5 miles north on 101 you'll come to Davison Rd. on the left. This road leads to a pull out for elk viewing, just after that the road turns to dirt and leads 5 miles to Fern Canyon trailhead, a dramatically steep and narrow gorge filled with maidenhair ferns and seeps. Fern Canyon is a popular destination in the summer months and you'll have company, but the crowd thins out quite a lot when you continue on through any of the many trails leading through the redwoods, or explore the coastal trail. Watch for elk! 3.8 miles north of Bald Hills Rd. is an exit for Newton Drury Scenic Parkway that leads to the Prairie Creek Visitor Center, with excellent maps and guidebook on the area. The road continues through a scenic stretch of old growth redwoods, with lots of places to stop, take in the tall trees and take long or short hikes through the redwoods. The Parkway continues a scenic drive through the redwoods and joins 101 about 4 miles south of the mouth of the Klamath River. Just past the town of Klamath, Requa Rd. on the left leads to the historic Requa Inn, a beautifully restored inn offering gourmet dinners and a cozy, hospitable stay, highly recommended if you plan to stay in the area!

A left turn from Bald Hills Rd. onto 101 takes you south through the town of Orick and then to a lovely stretch of coastline where you can easily access the beach and walk for miles. Just a short ways past this stretch is Stone Lagoon, where you can rent kayaks and explore the lagoon and beach at the boat-in campground or along the sandy spit to walk along trails and/or beaches you're likely to have to yourself.

Road and trail conditions vary considerably from season to season – always inquire about current conditions before heading out on a backcountry road or trail. Stop in or call the Orleans Ranger Station, (530) 627-3379

## Grayback -Happy Camp Rd/ Jefferson Scenic Byway



### Greyback Road/ Jefferson Scenic Byway

The Jefferson Scenic Byway connects the small rural towns of Happy Camp, 50 miles upriver from us, to O'Brien, in Southern Oregon, just south of Cave Junction. This paved road goes through the high country of the Siskiyou Mountains. The summit area is a winter recreation area that is intentionally left unplowed for winter sports, so always check on road conditions before taking this route. Beware that the entire Indian Creek watershed burned hot in the 2021 Slater Fire and will be years recovering. This route passes several access roads that lead to wilderness trailheads and lakes in the High Siskiyou, such as Kelly Lake and Poker Flat on the west side of the Rd, and Bolan Lake, Tanner Lake, and the Red Buttes Wilderness on the east side of the road. You'll want the Klamath Forest National Forest map if you plan on exploring these roads, and the Siskiyou Wilderness or Red Buttes Wilderness maps if you plan on doing any extensive hikes. If you plan to head north on I-5 to Eugene or Portland, then this route is actually a shortcut that will trim about 45 minutes from your drive time and take you through some gorgeous scenery.

**The Salmon River** presents another opportunity for an alternative route if you are heading east towards I-5 and don't mind spending some extra time on scenic, windy, mountain roads, see page 14.

## Klamath River Dams Are Coming Down

Twenty years ago a coalition of Klamath Basin Tribes and activists articulated an environmental moonshot: Take down the four dams blocking the flow of the Klamath River and impeding passage of salmonids from hundreds of miles of spawning habitat. 2001 was a drought year, water had been curtailed to Upper basin irrigators, provoking a “Bucket Brigade” and then increased diversions for agriculture in 2002, which resulted in a catastrophic fish kill downriver. From the ashes of that disaster arose the vision to remove the dams that for years had been impounding water, propagating fish pathogens and toxic blue green algae. What followed were years of meetings, protests, negotiations, more meetings, grassroots organizing, and more meetings. After a federal bill languished unfunded in congress for years the agreement and coalition finally fell apart, only to be rebuilt under a different agreement forged between Oregon and California.



**Four Klamath dams slated for removal.**

November 17, 2022 will be remembered as the day the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) finally agreed to allow the dams to come down, and even acknowledged their own ignorance of tribal impacts “A number of years back, I don’t think the commission necessarily spent a lot of time thinking about the impact of our decision on tribes, and I think that’s a very important element that’s in today’s order, and a number of orders recently. I think we’re making progress on that front,” said FERC’s chairman, Richard Glick.

CA Congressman Jared Huffman, a key congressional ally, announced the very same day: “The order allows the Klamath River Renewal Corporation – a non-profit group that will lead the dam removal effort – and the states of California and Oregon to take over PacifiCorp’s license for the purpose of demolishing the dams. Construction crews will begin preparing the area for dam removal in early 2023 and will remove the Copco 2 dam next year. The remaining dams will be removed all in 2024.

The dams have for decades blocked salmon from reaching hundreds of miles of productive salmon habitat. The shallow reservoirs regularly become choked with toxic algae and cause



elevated temperatures downstream. Impaired flows have led to an abundance of disease that often kills young salmon in the river. Removal of the dams is expected to vastly improve water quality, reduce the presence of fish disease, and reopen vital spawning habitat.

After so many years of struggle and uncertainty, it is almost surreal to read the Exhibit A-1 Definite Decommissioning Plan, on the Klamath River Renewal Corporation's website. Even the title seems to say "We really mean it this time" ... Inside are technical illustrations and narrative descriptions of reservoir drawdown, building temporary access roads, re-routing needed infrastructure, and finally the words: "Remove dam and intake concrete from the top of the dam down. Load demolished concrete into vehicles on the crest of the embankment dam for removal from the site. Remove spillway gates and hoisting equipment to allow spillways to pass flood flows." Music to the ears of many. Sweeter words never written...

For more information on the Dam Removal visit

<https://klamathrenewal.org/>

<https://www.californiasalmon.org/>

## The Mid Klamath Watershed Council

The Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) is a non-profit organization working to restore the Klamath River and the upriver habitat upon which it depends. As many Sandy Bar Ranch guests know, we (Mark & Blythe) have been active with MKWC since its inception in 2000. From humble beginnings (a laptop and desk in a spare bedroom, followed by a funky, dilapidated trailer), MKWC has grown into the third largest employer in our region, employing from 60 - 80 people throughout the year on fisheries restoration, fire and fuels management, watershed education, invasive weeds management, , and community development. MKWC partners with the Karuk Tribe, the US Forest Service and other state and federal agencies on projects that span 147 river miles, restoring both instream and upslope ecological health. Mark recently wrapped up a 5-year project on food security in the Klamath Basin, which included developing the [MWKC Foodsheds webpages](#) and a series of publications on regional food production. Blythe currently serves as the MKWC Events Coordinator and Contract Specialist.



## The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership

The management of public lands can be an acrimonious process anywhere, and the Mid Klamath is no exception. Like most of the West, this area has seen its share of battles over logging, water use, mining, indigenous sovereignty, jobs and endangered species. Factions square off, followed by litigation and protests, and the gridlock of polarized perspectives at time seems irreconcilable. It is these very reasons that make the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WGRP) stand out as a model for land use planning and management that is garnering attention from across the nation. Beginning on 2012, local and regional representatives of the Karuk Tribe, the Forest Service, Mid Klamath Watershed Council, local fire safe councils, industry and environmentalists came together to discuss broad scale land management. After initially encountering the above-mentioned pitfalls, they committed to focusing not on disagreements, but instead on shared values.

Fire is perhaps the largest single land management issue in the West. The legacy of fire suppression and mismanagement, combined with a changing climate, will shape our landscapes for many years to come. The WGRP process emphasizes the restoration of historic fire regimes, and recognizes traditional as well as contemporary knowledge and management strategies. It includes representatives of the Karuk Tribe, MKWC, timber companies and environmentalists, many participants express that they are engaging in true collaboration for perhaps the first time ever with such a wide group of varying perspectives. As work proceeds on the initial 1.2 million acres, many eyes are watching in the hopes that a new paradigm for fire adapted communities can be applied as a model in communities across the west.

## The Mid Klamath Online

[The Karuk Tribe](#) - The mission of the Karuk Tribe is to promote the general welfare of all Karuk people, to establish equality and justice for our tribe, to restore and preserve Tribal traditions, customs, language and ancestral rights, and to secure to ourselves and our descendants the power to exercise the inherent rights of self governance.

[Mid Klamath Watershed Council](#) - Since 2001, the Mid Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) has been working to restore the threatened Klamath River in Northern California and the upslope habitats upon which the river depends.

[Western Klamath Restoration Partnership](#) - The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRPP) seeks to build trust and a shared vision for restoring fire resilience at the landscape scale. The past century of fire exclusion has severely impacted water supplies, forest health, communities, cultural resources, and threatened species throughout the Klamath Mountains and beyond.

[Salmon River Restoration Council](#) is a community-based non-profit group that works collaboratively to assess, protect, maintain, and restore the ecosystems of California's spectacular [Salmon River watershed](#). Lots of great info and link of weather, climate and local history.

[Conifer Country](#) - Website and blog of Michael Kauffman, author of the book Conifer Country, with lots of cool info on hiking trails and botany of the Klamath Region and beyond.

[Peace on the Klamath](#), *The enemies in the West's most vicious water war have finally reached a ceasefire. This is the story of how it happened.* Even though it's dated, this is a good account of the back story of how Klamath Tribes and irrigators sat down to hash out a historic agreement.

[Save California Salmon](#). Save California Salmon (SCS) is dedicated to policy change and community advocacy for Northern California's salmon and fish dependent people. We support the fisheries and water protection work of the local communities, and advocate effective policy change for clean water, restored fisheries and vibrant communities.

[Vision Maker Media](#) - Vision Maker Media's mission is empowering and engaging Native people to share stories. We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate.

[Klamath River Renewal Corporation](#). KRRC's job is to take ownership of four PacifiCorp dams—JC Boyle, Copco No. 1 & No. 2, and Iron Gate—and then remove these dams, restore formerly inundated lands, and implement required mitigation measures in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.



## Book List

[The Klamath Mountains: A Natural History](#) - Finally!! It's been years coming, but our unique region finally has it's very own, comprehensive, natural history reference. Edited by Michael Kaufman (see Conifer Country above) and Justin Garwood, with over 34 contributing authors expert in Mammals, Birds, Amphibians, Plant Communities, First Peoples, Geology, Climate, Fire Ecology, and much more. We've been waiting on this a long time and are still absorbing all it has to offer since it came out on September of 2022.

[Beginners Luck](#) – Our dear friend Malcolm Terrence moved to this area in the late 60's. This delightful book charts his path from LA reporter/ rock band manager to homesteader, tree planter, school teacher and deep seated community member. A great read.

[The Klamath Knot](#) The Klamath Knot, by David Raines Wallace. Named one of the twentieth century's best nonfiction books by the San Francisco Chronicle, The Klamath Knot is a personal vision of wilderness in the Klamath Mountains of northwest California and southwest Oregon, seen through the lens of "evolutionary mythology." Wallace uses his explorations of the diverse ecosystems in this region to ponder the role of evolution and myth in our culture.

[Conifer Country](#) - The Klamath Mountains have more conifer diversity than anywhere else in the world' hosting 35 different species. Michael Kauffman tells the story of how this came to be in this wonderful combination field/ hiking guide. The book starts with an explanation of what makes this part of the world so unique, its peculiar mix of geology, topography, climate and history. It then goes on to profile each of the 35 Klamath conifer species, and best of all, guides you to specific trails where you can see them. Even better, you can access his website to download more detailed notes on each hike. Highly recommended for the curious naturalist.

[In the Land of the Grasshopper Song](#), This story is told by Mary Ellicot Arnold and Mabel Reed of their visit to this region in 1908 has become a classic. Read this and you'll be impressed by how much this area has retained its wildness and unique character in the 100 years that have passed.

[The Siskiyou Crest](#), by Luke Ruediger – Another combination natural history and hiking guide, this one focuses on the Siskiyou Crest in Northern California and Southwestern Oregon, from the Siskiyou Wilderness to Red Buttes, the Applegate, and Condrey Mountain. Good chapter on fire ecology, and lots of background on efforts to protect roadless areas. This link brings you to the author's blog.

[Karuk the Upriver People by Maureen Bell](#) – A great introduction to the Karuk People by a woman who grew up in Yreka, CA in the mid 1900s.

[The Bell Boy A Mule Train Journey by Margaret S. McClain](#) – a historical novel based on actual events about a 12 year old boy's first journey through the Marble Mountains - a kids book that adults will also enjoy.