

## Black Butte Trail

The Black Butte Trail encircles a volcanic cone just outside the town of Sisters, Oregon where it stands very prominently alongside the local, flatter terrain. The trail is a steep 3.8 mile roundtrip, but considering the access road takes you up more than half of its 3000 feet off of the surrounding landscape, you might consider yourself lucky. The mountain sticks up very apart from the main crest of the Cascades. It surged out of a large fault line east of the main Cascade one. Green Ridge, very conspicuously visible to the north, is part of this same fault block.

It is accessed from Highway 20, a short distance west from Sisters. A right turn from this highway onto Green Ridge Road is followed by a left turn onto Black Butte Road, which winds its way to the trailhead. There is an outhouse here, but no water, so bring your necessary supply. It is a fee area, so a Northwest Forest or Senior pass is necessary.

The trail starts up the forested eastside which is mostly ponderosa pine, grand fir, and Douglas-fir. A few of the wetter spots host a gathering of quaking aspens. Indian paintbrush and columbine grace some of the open areas that begin to appear as you circle to the southern, drier side of the butte. Near the top, noble fir, whitebark pine, and mountain hemlock are sprinkled in.

There are a few structures on the top, a cabin that can house the summer lookout tower staff, and the tall lookout structure itself. The view from the top is spectacular as you would imagine from this tall butte. It can get windy up there unless you can tuck yourself behind some of the volcanic rocks scattered around the top. And snow can persist into June some years, so plan ahead.



*A log cabin residence for the lookout crew and the Cascades*



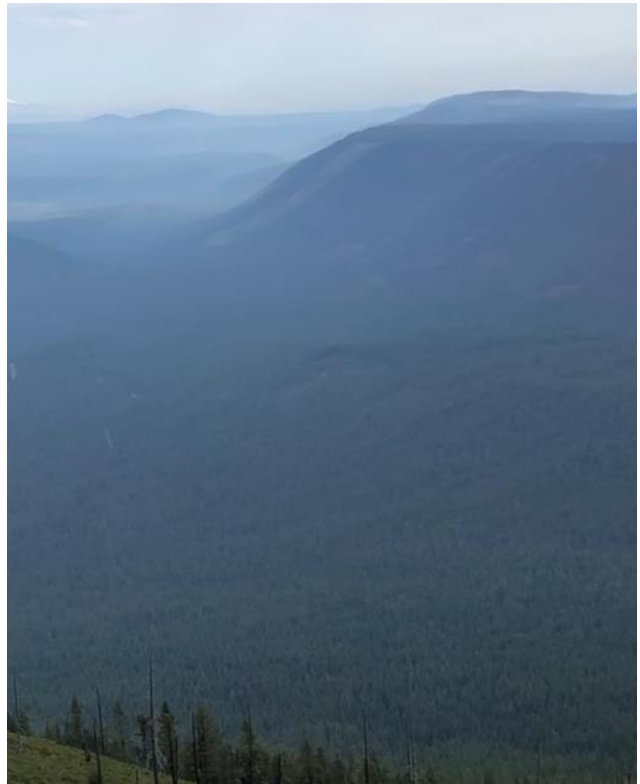
*Black Butte from near Sisters, Oregon*



*The Cascades to the west*



*Black Butte fire lookout*



*Green Ridge to the north*

Some of the trees and flowers:



*Mountain Hemlock*



*Whitebark Pine*



*Grand Fir*



*Douglas-fir*



*Quaking Aspen*



*Common Snowberry*



*Columbine*



*Scarlet Gilia*

