

Hager Mountain Trails

Hager Mountain is an old volcanic 7195 feet tall butte that towers over the surrounding landscape. It can be reached by foot, snowshoes, or cross-country skis through-out the year. The view from there (see pictures below) is absolutely incredible. You can see much of the Cascades and the eastern Oregon desert, along with Mount Hood and Mount Shasta (on clear days).

It is about an hour drive south of the town of Silver Lake, Oregon off of Highway 31. It can be reached off of 31 by going south on East Bay Road, which becomes Forest Road 28. About ten miles south of Silver Lake turn left on FS Road 280036 and left again on FS Road 2800497 to the Hager Mountain Trail Trailhead. The foot trail progresses up a steep trail for four miles to the lookout. Another way to access the top is to stay on FS Road 28 and turn east on FS 3010, and the left onto FS Road 2902. There is a locked gate, where you will have to park and hike less than two miles to the lookout from the east side of the mountain. I took both trails up, and the east side one is understandably quicker.

The lookout cabin can be rented from November 15 to May 15. The rest of the year it is staffed by National Forest personnel. Check this website for more information on the lookout, and how to rent it:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/fremont-winema/recreation/recrea/?recid=59807>

The mountain climbs from the ponderosa pine and western juniper into a thick forest of grand fie. I also spotted a few quaking aspens on the way up, and a few whitebark pine and curl-leaf mountain mahogany near the top.



The lookout tower, which was inhabited at the time



A welcome picnic table near the top



Trail sign on the west trail



The beginning of the west trail



West Trail about a half mile from the top



Many of the open areas had a display of early summer flowers, including Indian paintbrush and mulesear wyethia

Some of the trees:



Whitebark pine near the top



Grand fir



Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany



Quaking aspen

Four Outstanding Views From the Top:



The North - Paulina Peak in the distance



The East



The South - Mount Shasta can be seen on clearer days



The West and the Cascades

