

# OC&E Woods Line State Trail

Klamath Falls to Bly & Sycan Marsh



## Landmarks

### The Switchbacks

#### Gateway Section, mile 32

Original construction plans called for a tunnel through Bly Mountain but funds ran short, and crews instead built what was to be a temporary double switchback over the hill. This switchback was the last of its kind in the U.S., operating until the rail line shut down in 1990.

### Merritt Creek Trestle

#### Woods Line Spur, mile 27

As you head north, you'll see the supports of a once spectacular structure known as Merritt Creek Trestle. This monument spanned 400 feet and towered more than 50 feet above the creek before it burned in the 2021 Bootleg Fire.

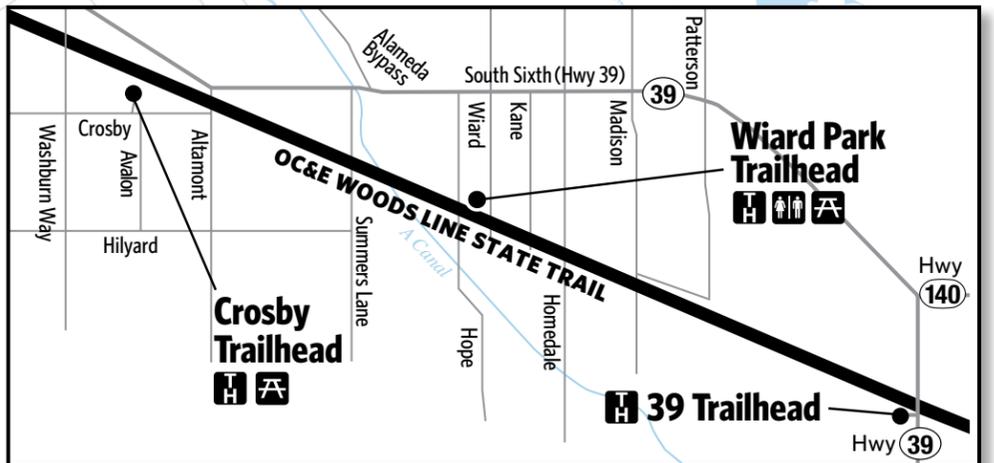
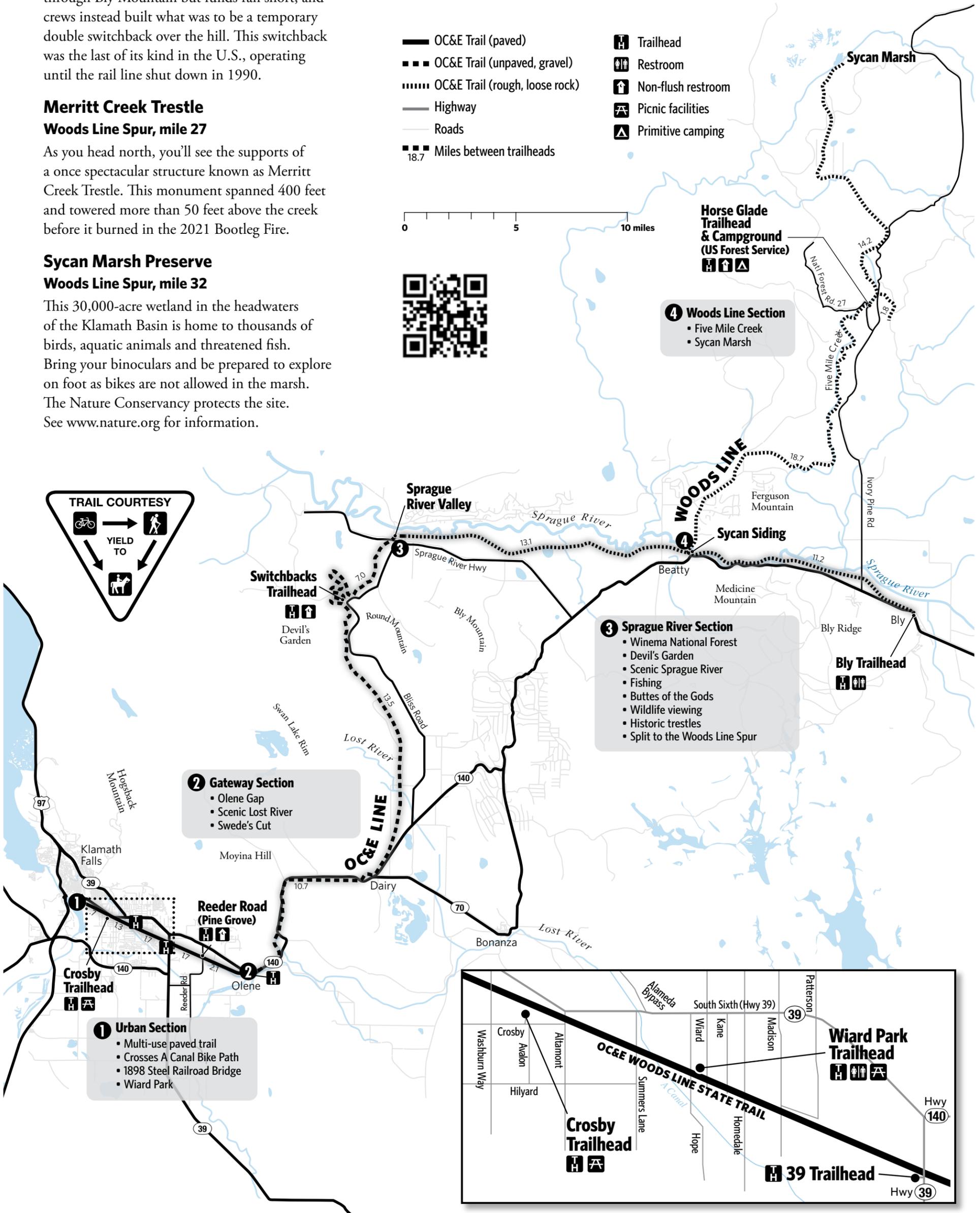
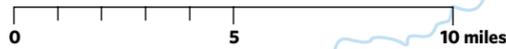
### Sycan Marsh Preserve

#### Woods Line Spur, mile 32

This 30,000-acre wetland in the headwaters of the Klamath Basin is home to thousands of birds, aquatic animals and threatened fish. Bring your binoculars and be prepared to explore on foot as bikes are not allowed in the marsh. The Nature Conservancy protects the site. See [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org) for information.

Please bring plenty of water—there is no drinking water on the trail.  
If you are planning an adventure on the trail, please call for the most up to date conditions at (541) 783-2471 or go to [stateparks.oregon.gov](http://stateparks.oregon.gov).

- OC&E Trail (paved)
- OC&E Trail (unpaved, gravel)
- OC&E Trail (rough, loose rock)
- Highway
- Roads
- Miles between trailheads
- Trailhead
- Restroom
- Non-flush restroom
- Picnic facilities
- Primitive camping





# OC&E Woods Line State Trail

## Klamath Falls to Bly & Sycan Marsh

### Trail etiquette

- Bicyclists and pedestrians: Yield to horses.
- Greet the horse and rider to avoid spooking.
- Equestrians: Please travel single file and use the wood chip trail where available.
- Walking with dogs: A 6-foot leash is required. Please remove pet waste from the trail.
- Respect private property adjacent to the trail.
- You are traveling on a right-of-way.
- Motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Pack it in, pack it out.
- Discharge of firearms is prohibited.
- Camping is not allowed along the trail except where designated.

### From Rail to Trail

Welcome to Oregon's longest linear park. The 109-mile trail is built on the old railbed of the Oregon, California and Eastern Railroad (OC&E). Open all seasons to non-motorized recreation, the trail begins in the heart of Klamath Falls and extends east to Bly and north beyond the lush Sycan Marsh.

### A Historic Route

The Klamath Falls Municipal Railway was the dream of journalist, railroad scout and publicist Robert E. Strahorn. He envisioned a railroad that would connect Klamath Falls to Lakeview, Burns and Bend.

Construction began on July 6, 1917. By 1923 the line had reached the community of Sprague River. Six years later, the railway reached Bly, which became the end of the line for the OC&E Railway.

The new railroad brought growth to the area. Logging camps with spur railroads sprang up almost overnight, and by 1919, four lumber mills were located on the main line. The engines transported carloads of enormous pine logs to the mills, often carrying as much as one million board feet a day.

In 1990, OC&E's life as a logging railroad ended. Weyerhaeuser Co. railbanked the right-of-way to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and the transition from a railroad to a trail began.

### 1 Urban Section

#### Klamath Falls to Olene

This paved section of the trail is typically bustling with joggers, walkers and bicyclists. Mt. Shasta rises to the south as the trail passes through farmland on its way to the tiny community of Olene. Approaching Olene, notice Olene Gap, a naturally-formed narrow opening in the mountains that allows just enough space for the trail, Highway 140 and the Lost River to course through.

In Olene, you will encounter gates on the trail—please close them behind you. The remaining trail to Bly and Sycan Marsh is unpaved and suitable for wide-tire bicycles, walking, cross-country skis and horseback riding. The trail surface in the Gateway Section is gravel. The roughest section is from Sprague River on, where the trail is loose rock.

### 2 Gateway Section

#### Olene to Sprague River

This section travels through Olene Gap and north through juniper and sagebrush before swinging east at Swede's Cut, a portion of track that was cut through high ground in order to maintain a gentle grade. The section is named for the Swedish workers who used star drills and black powder to move more than 10 feet of boulders and hardpan soil. Continuing east, the trail skirts the town of Dairy, named for the Dutch dairymen who once settled here.

### 3 Sprague River Section

#### Sprague River to Bly

As the trail descends into the Sprague River Valley, it traverses timber and ranch lands and passes the Sprague River. This scenic section is rich in wildlife and waterfowl. Agricultural activities abound in this fertile valley, and trail users may encounter livestock. The main trail continues east to the end of the line at the quiet town of Bly, once a booming mill town.

### 4 Woods Line Section

#### Woods Line Spur to beyond Sycan Marsh

The spur trail splits off and heads north at Beatty. This rough section passes from open farmland to thick woods, then crisscrosses over Five Mile Creek at mile 10. The spectacular Merritt Creek Trestle, which spanned 400 feet across, burned down in the 2021 Bootleg Fire, but the concrete supports still stand. The Woods Line breaks at the expanse of grasslands known as Sycan Marsh, then continues north of the marsh for seven miles.



#### Collier Memorial State Park

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Chiloquin, OR 97624  
(541) 783-2471

#### Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. NE, Suite C  
Salem OR 97301

[www.oregonstateparks.org](http://www.oregonstateparks.org)  
800-551-6949

#### Support the OC&E by joining Klamath Rails-to-Trails.

Email: [info@klamathrailstotrailsgroup.org](mailto:info@klamathrailstotrailsgroup.org)  
Website: [klamathrailstotrailsgroup.org](http://klamathrailstotrailsgroup.org)  
Phone: (541) 882-3141 or (541) 882-0247 (leave a message)



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