
COLLINGS MOUNTAIN TRAIL #943 & DA-KU-BE-TE-DE TRAIL 940 LOOP

Length: 10.0

Difficulty: L2 – L4

Elevation: 2000' to 3040'

Access: From Ruch, go up Upper Applegate Road 17.7 miles to Watkins Campground. There is a large area to turn around and park right inside the campground.

The Da-Ku-Be-Te-De Trail leaves the campground paralleling the main road. As you head down a short hill, a wooden bridge crosses a gully. Be extra careful if it is wet or icy. From here the trail continues along the high water line of Applegate Lake, crossing Copper Boat Ramp for about 3 miles. This is a narrow trail in places with very steep side hills. Just before Hart-tish Park a connecting trail to Collings Mountain takes off to the left. When you come up to the paved road, the Collings Mountain Trail begins just on the other side of the road. (NOTE: This trail is open to equestrians from November through April to provide a rare winter horseback riding opportunity. During this period the trail is still open, and heavily used, by hikers and mountain bikers so please use caution.)

The Collings Mountain Trail drops down to Grouse Creek. An abandoned miners' cabin and an inactive Bigfoot trap are encountered about 3/4 mile up the trail. At the old cabin, turn left and go up the hill about 200 yards to view the trap. Also look across the creek and see if you can find the Bigfoot Christmas Tree! Several mine tunnels are found along the trail. Please do not enter the tunnels. Leaving Grouse Creek, the trail climbs steeply for one mile to the ridge top, gaining 1000' elevation. At the top of the ridge is an excellent area to take a break and have lunch. The trail then begins a long traverse of the western slope of Collings Mountain. Excellent panoramic views of the Applegate Lake and the Siskiyou Crest are seen at several locations along the trail. After traversing below the ridgeline for 2 miles, the trail then descends steadily for 3 miles to Watkins campground. The last 1/2 mile of trail passes through the 62 acre Watkins fire that burned in 1981. The trail comes out right across from the Watkins Campground where you started from.

