

ROCKYMOUNTAINSCRAMBLER: ADVENTURES ON THE TRAIL

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DAY THREE:

July 3/22 We could see our breath as we packed up tent at 6:30am. With our packs ready, we walked down to the cookhouse to use the microwave that the lovely families offered to warm up last night's supper that we didn't eat due to the great kindness of the family group that was renting out the campground. When we arrived, coffee was on and offered to us as we warmed up our breakfast. The lovely Ricky and Kai insisted on making us eggs, too. We had great conversation but had to be on our way. We got a selfie with our trail angels and accepted some fruit (grapes and banana) to go.

Back on the PCT, we hiked through the forest and passed a cool canal (evidently not recommended for a water source) and a series of bridges. At snack break I paired my banana with some almond butter – nothing like fresh fruit on the trail. Shortly after our break, we met another hiker, Dean from Portland, and hiked with him for till the spring 10km into our hike that day. It was a bit off trail, but it was the only water until South Brown Mtn Shelter in 13km. The spring was pretty and surrounded by Camas flowers.

After the spring, I popped some Vitamin I for my throbbing feet and we continued along the trail.

SUMMARY

26km/16mi

755m/2480ft

7.5h of hiking from
9am-7:50pm

WATER SOURCES

- Howard Prairie Lake
- Green Creek Spring
- Lake of the Woods

HIKER LINGO

Vitamin I – ibuprofen

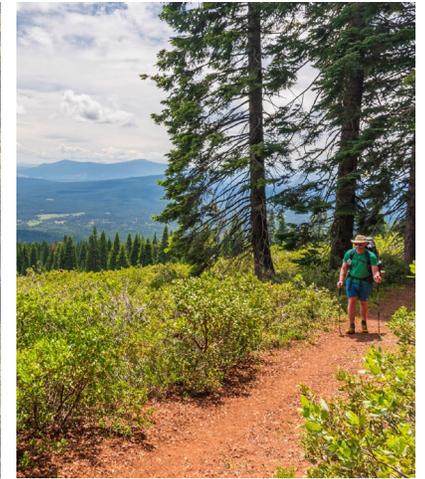
Trail angels – kind people that help thru-hikers (usually by feeding them or giving them a ride)

Picture: The big, beautiful forests of Oregon.

As the day progressed my feet continued to get increasingly sore. We started to worry about the water carry, and at our next break we came up with a plan that would involve an alternate towards Lake of the Woods. Not only could we cut the day short, which my feet liked, but it would mean we'd have access to water instead of the dry route up the PCT.

When we arrived at a paved road with a spacious parking lot and decided to sit down and make a coffee and a final decision about our alternate plan. My feet were the deciding factor – no point in damaging myself this early in the hike - and we decided to head to Lake of the Woods to do the Lake Alts.

Walking along the paved road felt like hell on the feet, so we gratefully accepted a ride from a local heading that way. Gabriel dropped us at the junction & we walked into the resort area, past cabins and eventually to a public beach. As we filled up our bottles at the public washroom, a truck drove by and offered us each a cold beer. The kindness of strangers that we had experienced these first few days was heart-warming.



We enjoyed the cold bevs on the picnic bench on the chilly & windy lake shore. After, we walked around to the resort and asked about lodging – it was the July long weekend, so we were pretty sure we knew the answer, but we thought we'd try just in case we scored a cabin cancellation. After the predictable answer, we walked to the last day use area and decided to have supper on a picnic table and bandit camp in the woods. The nearby bathroom had flushies and power outlets to charge our devices. At dusk we set up the tent in trees behind the bathroom and passed out by 10pm.

