

# Recreation Uses and Trends in the Breitenbush

# Relevant special area and land management designations

(refer to map)

- **West Cascades National Scenic Byway.** The hot springs were a key attribute to its designation.
- Newly designated **Cascading Rivers Scenic Bikeway** between Detroit and Estacada.
- Breitenbush and South Fork of the Breitenbush River are eligible **Wild and Scenic Rivers.**
- **Breitenbush viewshed**
- **Mt. Jefferson Wilderness**
- **McCoy Motorized Recreation Area**

# Existing Developments and Use:

(refer to map)

- **Breitenbush Community and Retreat Center (private land)** and adjacent trails built by the Friends of the Breitenbush Cascades.
- **5 Campgrounds** - Campgrounds fill to capacity most weekends from the end of June through Labor Day.
- **72 recreation residences** in Breitenbush-Devils Summer Home Tract.
- **Gold Butte Lookout rental** - high occupancy rate
- **Upper Arm Day Use Area** /byway stop: only one in the Breitenbush.
- **McCoy Recreation Motorized Area** and connection to Breitenbush (scenic OHV riding and snowmobiling on 70 miles of open roads ).
- **Intensive dispersed recreation in the watershed** (camping, fishing, swimming, hunting, picnicking, scenic driving/riding, etc)
- **Over 500 dispersed campsites.** About 346 are in riparian areas.
- **38 miles of non-motorized trails** within the south Breitenbush including a national recreation trail and access into Mt. Jefferson Wilderness and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

# Recreation planning considerations and trends:

- Current demand exists for more **overnight facilities**; including expanded amenities such as cabins and yurts.
- **Bicycling** will likely increase with scenic bikeway designation and regional/international tourism marketing.
- Growing demand for **day use facilities** (incl. nature study).
- **Limited day use facilities and byway stops** along Road 46 (Upper Arm at Detroit Lake and Two Rivers near Ripplebrook).
- **Scenic Byway Corridor Development Plan (2007)** identified enhancement and interpretative opportunity at the lower hot springs.
- **Finite area for future developed recreation sites** limited to three areas of sufficient size and suitable topography.
- Considers **adjacent uses**.

# Resource Considerations

- Cultural
- Water
- Fish/Wildlife
- Vegetation/Fuels

# Lower Breitenbush Hot Springs

# Lower Breitenbush Hot Springs and Recreation Use

- Since 1994, the site has been used by the public for dispersed camping and soaking in the tubs.
- Most use occurs in the summer but is accessed year round, 24 hours/day.
- Mixed demographics (ethnicity, age) and includes family and friend groups.