Mount Hood Wilderness

Twin Lakes Addition

Hood River & Wasco Counties
7,136 acres
Mount Hood National Forest

Description:

Twin Lakes — Photo by Linda Folkstad

Twin Lakes is named for the two lovely lakes, which rest in two separate basins that protect them from the sights and sounds of Highways 26 and 35. Green Lake and Catalpa Lake are also part of the unit. Twin Lakes proposed Wilderness area boundaries were drawn to exclude a 300 foot buffer around the community of Wapinitia, which requested the buffer between the Wilderness boundary and their private land in order to allow them to use fire prevention techniques near the homes.
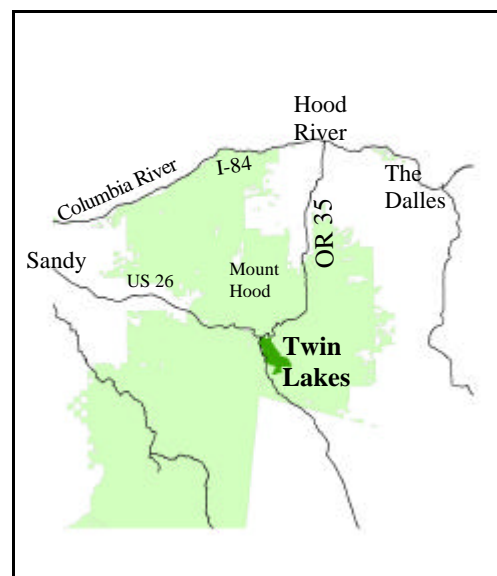
Ecological, geological, and scenic value:

Twin Lakes contains several fish bearing streams, including Barlow Creek. The unit provides habitat for black bear, spotted owl, ruffled grouse, bobcat, deer, and elk. There is also a great Blue heron rookery in the northeast portion. The streams and creeks in Twin Lakes are part of the White River and Salmon River watersheds. This inventoried roadless area is designated as a Late Successional Reserve in the Northwest Forest Plan.   Twin Lakes hosts a variety of forest types including Douglas-fir, Noble Fir, Pacific Silver Fir, Mountain Hemlock, Engelmann Spruce, Western White Pine, and Lodgepole Pine. Twin Lakes also includes many wetland meadows with important riparian habitat.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation:

Hiking and snowshoeing on the Pacific Crest Trail and the Loop trail to Twin Lakes are popular backcountry recreation pastimes in all seasons. The proposed Twin Lakes Wilderness does not have conflicts with motorized user groups. Snowmobile routes from Frog Lake are outside the proposal boundaries. The glaciated cirques that make the twin Lakes basins provide natural screening from Highways 35 and 26, making this unit a welcome escape from civilization.

Threats:

Wilderness will permanently protect Twin Lakes' streams and forests from logging, road-building and destructive development.