

The great density of waterfalls on the Oregon side of the Gorge is due to the steepness of the cliffs on that side. Because the entire region's bedrock material is tilted slightly southward, landslides have modified the slope on the Washington side. When water saturated, the upper basaltic layers on the north side of the river slide into the Gorge. Thus, waterfalls on the Washington side are fewer and smaller.

Listed below are the waterfalls in the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area that shouldn't be missed.

Multnomah Falls

Type: plunge
Height: 620 feet
Access: car or hike

This is the most visited scenic site in Oregon. Multnomah Falls is the second-highest year-round waterfall in the United States.



*Multnomah Falls
(photo courtesy of the
USDA Forest Service)*

Latourell Falls

Type: plunge
Height: 249 feet
Access: car or hike

Located in Guy W. Talbot State Park, this fall of Latourell Creek is named after Joseph Latourell, a prominent Columbia River Gorge settler. It's a short walk from the park's picnic area to the viewpoint.

Upper Latourell Falls

Type: plunge
Height: 75–100 feet
Access: hike

This fall is 0.8 miles along the trail from Latourell Falls. It is possible to walk behind the falling water.

Sheppards Dell Falls

Type: tiered
Height: upper falls 35–50 feet;
lower falls 40–60 feet
Access: car or hike

The two tiers of this falls can be seen from the bridge crossing at Sheppards Dell State Park, two miles west on the Historic Highway from Exit 28 off I-84. The lower falls is a horsetail formation and the upper falls is a plunge formation.

Bridal Veil Falls

Type: tiered
Height: upper falls: 60–100 feet;
lower falls 40–60 feet
Access: car or hike

Bridal Veil Creek abruptly drops twice. A short trail winds down to the base of the lower tier. Along the pathway, look across the Columbia River towards views of seasonal falls on the Washington side of the Gorge.

Wahkeena Falls

Type: tiered
Height: 242 feet
Access: car or hike

This fall along Wahkeena Creek can be seen from the Wahkeena picnic area across the Historic Highway. There are parking spaces at the picnic area. The Yakama Tribe word "wahkeena" means "most beautiful."



*Wahkeena Falls
(photo courtesy of the
USDA Forest Service)*

Fairy Falls

Type: fan
Height: 20–30 feet
Access: hike

This fall along Wahkeena Creek is 1.1 miles up from the trailhead of Wahkeena Trail #420. You can access this trailhead at Wahkeena Falls.

Triple Falls

Type: segmented
Height: 100–135 feet
Access: hike

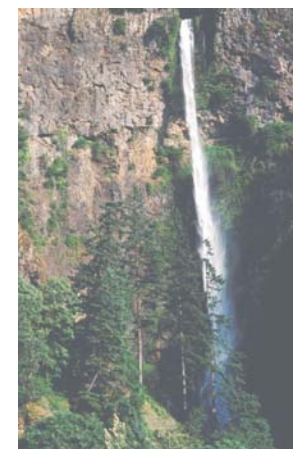
The Triple Falls viewpoint is on Oneonta Trail #424, 1.7 miles from its trailhead. The trailhead is 0.8 miles past the junction with Horsetail Falls Trail #438. The Horsetail Falls trailhead is 2.5 miles east of Multnomah

Falls on Highway 30. Triple Falls plunges along Oneonta Creek. It is of triplet form, not triple as the name implies.

Horsetail Falls

Type: horsetail
Height: 176 feet
Access: car or hike

This classic example of a horsetail fall along Horsetail Creek can be viewed from a turnout on the Historic Highway, 2.5 miles east of Multnomah Falls.



*Horsetail Falls
(photo courtesy of the
USDA Forest Service)*

Wahclella Falls

Type: tiered
Height: upper 15–25 feet;
lower 50–70 feet
Access: hike

This thunderous waterfall can be accessed from the Tanner Creek Trail parking area. Start at the trailhead and hike 0.5 mile to the trail's end at the falls. East Fork Falls can also be seen streaming above the descent from a vantage on the west side of Tanner Creek.

Metlako Falls

Type: plunge
Height: 100–150 feet
Access: hike

The viewpoint is 1.5 miles from the trailhead of Eagle Creek Trail #440 in Eagle Creek Park. The waterfall was named in 1915 after the legendary Indian goddess of salmon.

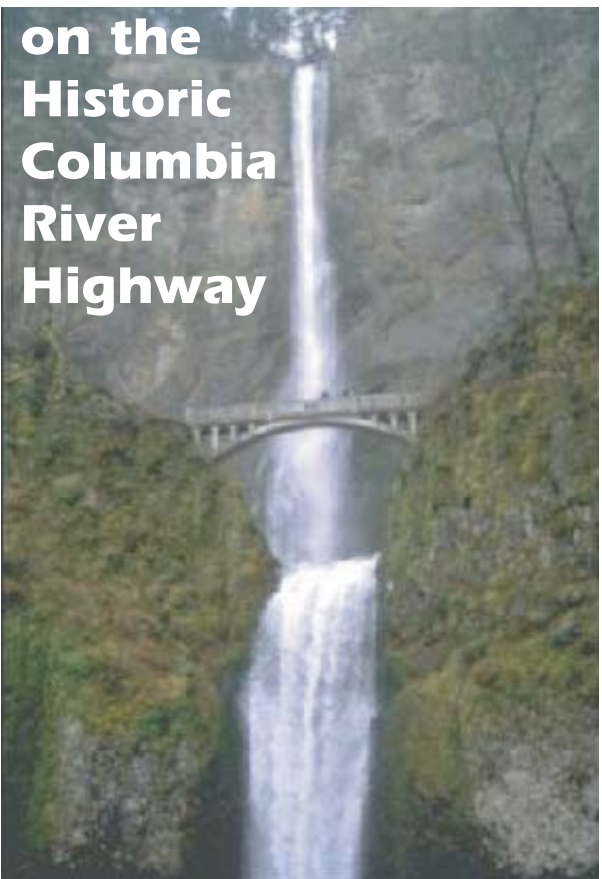
Punch Bowl Falls

Type: punchbowl
Height: 10–15 feet
Access: hike

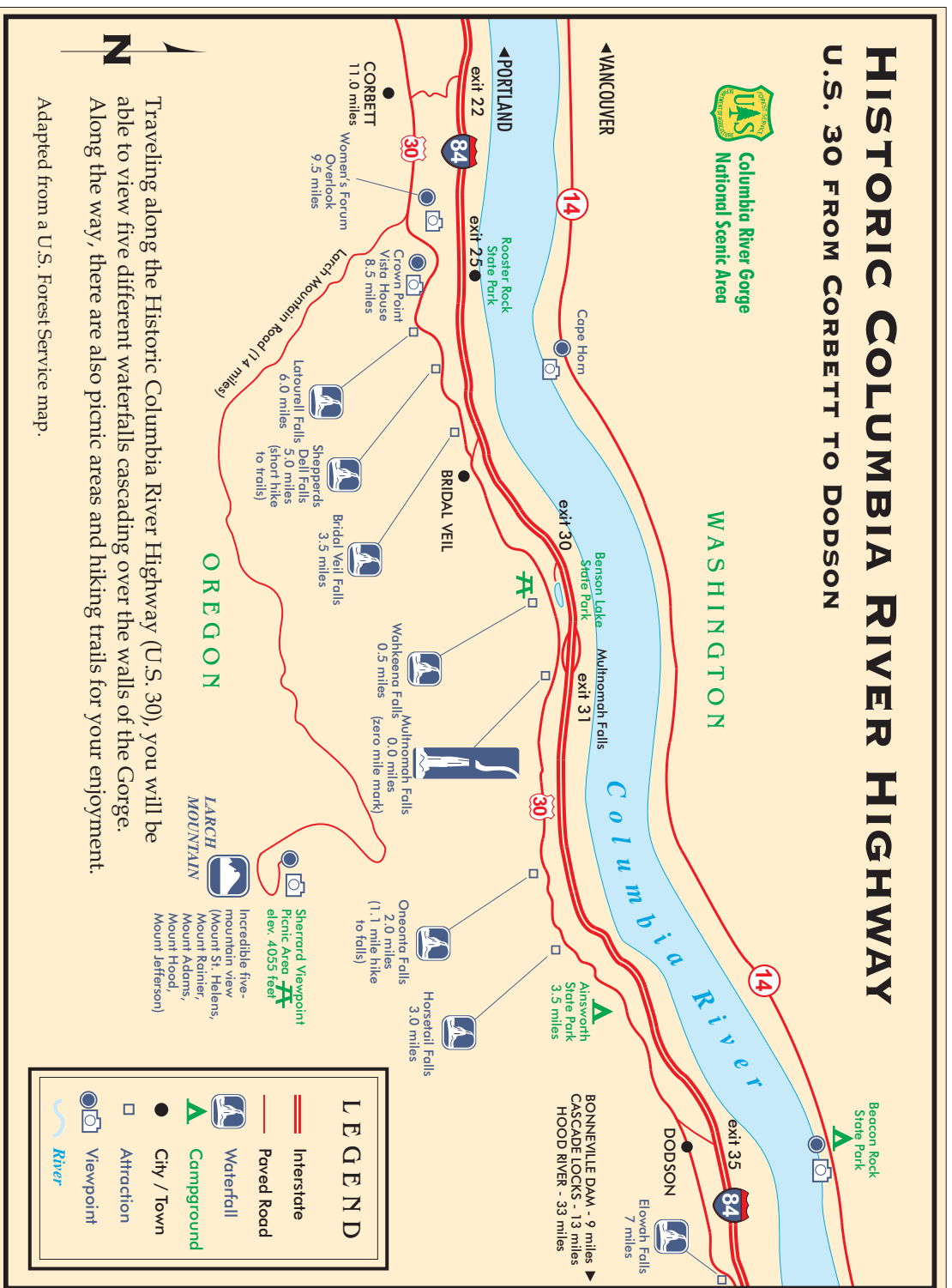
Punch Bowl Falls may sound short, but it is exquisite and a classic example of a punchbowl formation. Like Metlako Falls, it is also at Eagle Creek Park. Hike 2.1 miles from the trailhead of Eagle Creek Trail #440 (0.6 mile past Metlako Falls viewpoint) to a short side trail leading to the falls.

WATERFALL TOUR LOOP

on the
Historic
Columbia
River
Highway



Through millenia of geologic events, waterfalls have found a home on the Oregon side of the Columbia River Gorge. A visit to the area is not complete without a visit to these breathtaking waterfalls.



Traveling along the Historic Columbia River Highway (U.S. 30), you will be able to view five different waterfalls cascading over the walls of the Gorge. Along the way, there are also picnic areas and hiking trails for your enjoyment.

Adapted from a U.S. Forest Service map.

The waterfalls are accessible from a portion of the Historic Columbia River Highway (U.S. 30) off Interstate 84.

If you're coming from the west, exit I-84 at Troutdale (Exit 17), Lewis and Clark State Park (Exit 18), Corbett (Exit 22), Bridal Veil (Exit 28), or Dodson (Exit 35).

If you're coming from the east, exit I-84 at Dodson (Exit 35), Bridal Veil (Exit 28), or Corbett (Exit 22)].