

## Photos of Northern Blue Mountains

Summer, 2013



The North Blue Mountains are an elevated basalt plateau deeply incised by numerous stream canyons.



Easy day hikes follow ridges into the Wehena-Tucannon Wilderness, such as the Sawtooth Ridge Trail...



or the Round Butte Trail, which follows a narrow spine on a fairly level grade to a scenic promontory.



In the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness, the hike up Ninemile Ridge is more taxing, but no less rewarding.



Another approach is to follow the stream canyons into the wilderness, such as the Tucannon River Trail...



...or the Buck Creek Trail, which winds over 3 miles into the heart of the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness.



The most dramatic trails descend from the plateau rim, as the Cross Canyon Trail to the Wenaha River...



...or the Three Forks Trail, which switchbacks over 1,600' into the picturesque Crooked Creek canyon.