

Photos of South Fork Desolation Creek Trail
Umatilla National Forest, North Fork John Day District

August 15, 2013



South Fork Desolation Creek is remote & unroaded, but the upper basin burned in the 1996 Summit Fire.



The trailhead is easily accessible by any passenger vehicle from Forest Road 45, just east of the creek.



The trail starts along benches away from the stream, through a forest of evenly-spaced lodgepole pine.



At 0.8 miles, the trail arrives at creekside, amid stands of old-growth fir and Englemann spruce.



For the next 2 miles, the trail is mostly away from the stream, through uncut groves of larch and white fir.



At 3.2 miles is a viewpoint, with vistas up canyon to Squaw Rock (at left) on the high Greenhorn Ridge.



The trail then descends into the scenic upper basin, through a forest regenerating from the 1996 fire.



At the 3.6 miles, the trail meets the creek again, offering a nice spot for lunch and a hike destination.