

# D. L. Andersson

P h o t o g r a p h y

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## Munson Creek Falls

*At 266 feet, Munson Creek Falls is the tallest waterfall in the Coast Range. The creek on which the falls is located is named after Gorgan Munson, an early settler of the area.*

### Directions

From Tillamook travel south on US Highway 101 8 miles and turn left on Munson Creek Road. A small sign along US 101 also points the way. After approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile the road turns to gravel. Follow the park signs another mile to Munson Creek State Park which will be to your Right.

### The Trail

This enjoyable stroll through old growth cedar, alder, and maple and along Munson Creek is really too short to be called a hike. However, this lightly used trail is more than worth the visit.

The wide and well maintained trail begins at the top end of the park turn around. The trail follows the creek through large cedar, alder, and maple covered in moss. After  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile the trail ends at the falls viewpoint. In the late spring and early fall the view of the lower portion of the falls is obscured by the alder, big leaf, and vine maple.

On your return trip back down the same trail, look for wild iris and monkey flower, as well as, salmonberry and elderberry.

The basalt rock cliff that creates the falls was originally the seafloor of the Pacific Ocean. It was created by undersea eruptions 15 to 20 million years ago during the Miocene time. Due to the action of the Continental plate passing over the Pacific plate it has exposed the ancient seafloor.

Raven, gulls, and various songbirds all frequent the area as do deer and raccoon.

*Photographing the Natural Pacific Northwest*

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