

# D. L. Anderson

P h o t o g r a p h y

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## Strawberry Falls

### Directions

From John Day, Follow US-26 13 miles east to Prairie City. In Prairie City, turn right on Bridge Street and follow it 11 miles to its end at the Strawberry campground.

### The Trail

The trail begins at the map board in Strawberry Campground and from here, it climbs through a forest of white fir, Oregon grape, and huckleberries. Stay to the right at the fork 1 mile from the trailhead as the trail then crosses a jumble of moss covered boulders, a remnant of a large ice age landslide. During the summer the sounds of the creek can be heard from the trail but not seen since its water flows beneath the landslide.

After traveling another  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile, turn right and follow the trail another few hundred yards to the shores of Strawberry Lake.

The trail encircles the lake, so either direction will bring you to the trail junction leading to the falls on the far side of the lake. The left route is approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile shorter but the trail to the right is more scenic, providing a view of the rugged mountain cliff overlooking the lake.

At the far end of the lake, follow the trail as it makes a moderately steep climb for another mile, along Strawberry Creek. At the switchback leading to the left, a very short trail spur to the right leads to the base of Strawberry Falls. The falls is a broad horsetail cascading down a moss cover basalt rock face and onto the jumble of rocks below.

The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness has extremely diverse ecological makeup. Jutting up more than 9,000 feet from the surrounding prairie and sagebrush desert this glacier carved alpine oasis sustains a healthy population of native Rocky Mountain Elk, as well as, deer, antelope, black bear, cougar, bighorn sheep, grouse, bald eagle, pine marten, and beaver. In all more than 370 birds and mammals call the wilderness home.

*Photographing the Natural Pacific Northwest*

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