

# D. L. Anderson

P h o t o g r a p h y

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## Tamanawas Falls

*Tamanawas Falls makes for a great summer hike. The shaded trail winds back and forth over the aptly named Cold Spring Creek and provides a welcome break from the heat of mid summer days. At the end you are rewarded with a beautiful, broad, and curtain like falls dropping 100 feet.*

### Directions

From Portland drive 55 miles east on US 26 to the intersection of Highway 35. Follow Oregon Highway 35 north 18 miles to the well marked East Fork Trailhead on the left. From Hood River travel south on Oregon Highway 35 for 23 miles and look for the East Fork Trailhead on your right,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile north of Sherwood Campground.

### The Trail

The trail begins at the northwest end of the parking area where, after a few hundred yards, you cross the glacier fed East Fork of the Hood River and turn right onto the East Fork Trail. The trail follows the river through Douglas fir and western hemlock. After  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile turn left at the fork and cross the foot bridge over Cold Spring Creek. This one mile section of the trail follows the creek and has several access areas to stop and enjoy the cold water as it tumbles over the moss covered rocks.

Stay left at the last fork and once again cross the Creek. Tamanawas Falls lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile ahead. The falls itself is 100 feet high and tumbles through a notch carved into the lip of an old basalt lava flow.

Take some time on the way back to look for fairy slipper, tiger lily, and twinflower that are common along the trail in the spring. Stellar jays, Clark's nutcrackers, American dippers, and golden mantled ground squirrels all populate the area as well.

If you would like to extend the hike an extra  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles try taking the loop to the Polallie Overlook and back along the East Fork of the Hood River. Returning from the falls turn left at the first trail junction just past the second footbridge. Another  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles will bring you to a short trail spur to the left leading to the Polallie Overlook. From here you can look down onto Polallie Creek. In 1980 heavy rains triggered a massive landslide and flash flood that originated several miles upstream. The slide tore through the old growth forest below killing one person and destroying several miles of Highway 35.

Rejoining the main trail, it's another  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles past the Polallie parking area and along the boulder strewn and milky waters of the Hood River East Fork before you come to the junction of the East Fork Trail. From here it's only a half mile back to the trailhead parking area.

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*Photographing the Natural Pacific Northwest*

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