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# Wendy's

PRESENTS

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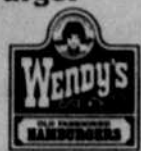
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## Waldo remains unspoiled

By Teri Boring

Of the Emerald

Lush meadows, thick old-growth forests, deer, ground squirrels and a myriad of their tracks, a skylight to the stars — this scene surrounds Waldo Lake, Oregon's second largest body of beautiful, unspoiled water.

'Unspoiled' is no overstatement. Scientific studies prove that Waldo Lake is the purest lake on earth. From the shore, hikers, boaters, campers and fishermen can see the rounded pebbles lining the lake.

Located just 60 miles southeast of Eugene, in the Willamette National Forest, the 25,000 acres of the Waldo Wilderness Area remain uncommercialized and undeveloped. The area is named for Judge John Breckenridge Waldo, who was born in Oregon in 1844. He used his legislative power throughout his life to encourage lawmakers to regard all wilderness as invaluable. He spent 27 summers of his life with a small pack of horses and a few friends, exploring the vast mountainous area that we now know as the Waldo Wilderness Area.

But it wasn't until the 1984 wilderness bill passed by Congress that the area was dedicated and protected.

Waldo Lake and its surroundings are well maintained by Forest Service employees and volunteers. Judge Waldo's usual campsite has not had a tree cut down since his final visit in the late 19th Century. If he were to visit it today it would look remarkably the same.

According to Terry Bertsch, a forest technician supervisor at the Oakridge Ranger Station, the number one problem today is litter. But because of maintenance, even Judge Waldo would be proud to hike the trails named after him.

Twenty-one miles of hiking trails circle Waldo Lake. The elevation of the lake itself is 5,414 feet and the

trails around it are relatively flat. However, the trails traveling up to neighboring buttes and lakes steepen. An example is the trail leading to the fire lookout atop Waldo Mountain, which ends at an elevation of 6,357 feet.

A two-mile trail beginning at trailhead 5896, leads hikers along South Waldo to a rustic shelter. It is on the edge of a picture-perfect meadow and beside a small stream of clear water. There is a fire pit at the shelter. Signs alert campers to contain fires in designated spots to limit fire danger.

Trails are subtly marked with distances and destinations. Nevertheless, it is possible to lose the way. A small check-in booklet provided by the Forest Service can be used in case of an emergency.

There are three car-accessible campgrounds, Shadow Bay, North Waldo and Island Inlet. Each has a \$6 fee per night. On the west side of the lake is a little-known campsite called Rhododendron Island, accessible only by trail and boat.

But camping around Waldo Lake and the wilderness area is not limited to the developed sites; all of the wilderness area is worth exploring.

There are three boat ramps, each near the automobile-accessible campgrounds. Although fishing is not a sport Waldo Lake boasts, fly fishermen can be spotted along the shores of the lake. One theory says that the lake is too pure to have a flourishing fish population. However, some say the sport of fishing will be more lively at Waldo Lake in the near future.

Judge Waldo hoped that neither those who want nature left untouched, nor those who want to cut everything down, would override the other. The Waldo Wilderness Area is the result of this hope.

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