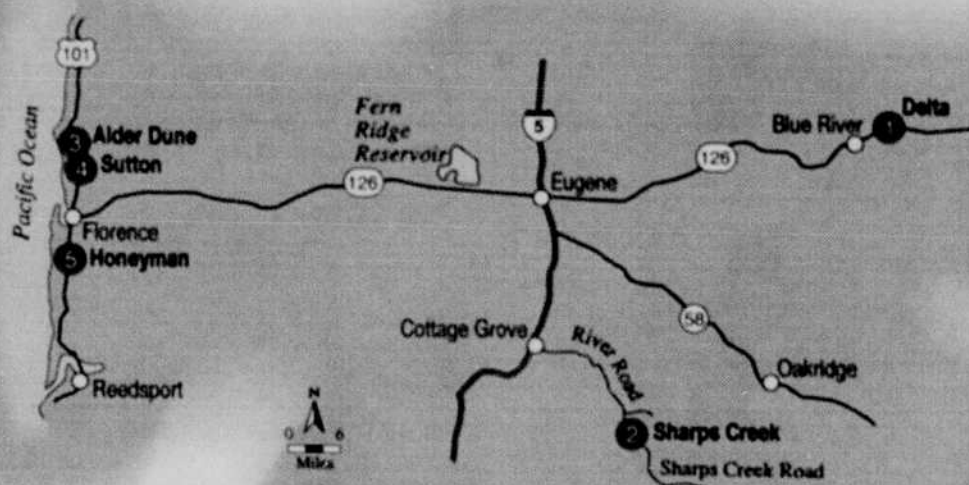




Go pitch a tent

1 Delta Campground

- Located only about an hour and a half from Eugene, Delta Campground offers several different recreational opportunities. The nearby Cougar Reservoir has boating, fishing and swimming. And the Cougar Hot Springs are about three miles up the road from the campground.

There are a number of nature trails around the reservoir and along the various streams that feed into it for hiking. Unfortunately, mountain bikes are not allowed on these trails.

The campsites are large with nice fire pits. Generally the campground isn't too crowded, unless it's a holiday. The camping fee is \$10, and there are restrooms with running water.

2 Sharps Creek Campground

About one and a half hours outside Eugene, Sharps Creek campground is one of the best places to camp if you want to go swimming and diving. There is a great swimming hole at the campground site on Sharps Creek with small cliffs to dive from.

Wildwood Falls and Dorena Reservoir are also nearby. Both are great places for swimming and diving. Unfortunately, Sharps Creek doesn't open until the first week in May, and there wouldn't be much point in going until then unless you're a member of the Polar Bear Club. Before May the water is almost cold enough to cause instant hypothermia, and it doesn't really warm up until June.

The major drawback to the campground is that the campsites are rather small and very visible. So if you don't like your neighbors looking at you, this may not be your kind of place. The fee, however, is only \$5.

3 Alder Dune Campground

- On the Oregon coast about 14 miles north of Florence, Alder Dune is a small campground with fairly secluded campsites and plenty of nearby recreation.

There is a small lake and picnic area at the campground as well as hiking trails. There are a number of beaches nearby, including Devil's Elbow, one of the most scenic parks on the central coast. Hike up to the lighthouse at Devil's Elbow or check out the small tidepools there. The North and South Jetty beaches are also close by.

Florence is also very close. Stop off for a shrimp cocktail at one of the seafood stores or maybe pick up something and cook it yourself on the campfire.

Alder Dune won't be open until the first week in May. There are bathrooms and running water. The camping fee is \$10 per night.

4 Sutton Campground

Sutton Campground is near (oddly enough) Sutton Beach, just north of Florence. With hiking trails, the beach, fishing and Florence nearby, there is never a lack of things to do at this campground. The campsites are well-kept and fairly private, and there are toilets and running water.

Check out the tidepools or explore Old Town Florence. A bit of advice though: Don't go into Florence too much after your first day of camping. After more than one day of staying outside and not showering you could offend the local people with your stench. The fee at Sutton is also \$10 per night, and it is open now.

5 Honeymen Campground

- If you're planning on staying a few days, Honeymen is probably your best bet. With hot showers and clean bathrooms (clean by campground standards anyway), Honeymen is a popular campground for families.

Located just south of Florence, Honeymen offers all of the same recreation opportunities of the coastal campgrounds. The only drawbacks are that Honeymen is almost always crowded and the park rangers have a larger presence there than at the other campgrounds.

But the convenience of the showers might make it worth it. The cost is \$10 per night, and it is open now.

- Compiled by Dylan Alford
- Graphic by Matt Garton

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