

Waterfalls

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you to Moon Falls next.

Curiously, the Forest Service can't seem to decide if the falls is officially called "Moonfalls" or "Moon Falls." Two signs, including one at the trailhead, label it as the former. A directional one and its website references it as the latter.

I kind of like the uniqueness of "Moonfalls," despite its grammatical nonsensicality.

The pathway is the only one that's mostly level and in fact gains a few feet en route to the falls. A highlight is a giant downed tree that makes for a killer balance beam my kids spent about an hour exploring.

The waterfall is a sight. Seemingly out of nowhere, in the middle of the forest, it fans out 80 feet down a black cliff face. I suspect it's less impressive later in the summer, as the flow gets low, but then it might make a nice spot for a natural shower, as it's pretty easy to walk up to its base.

Two down, one to go.

Waterfall #3: Pinard Falls

With the current road closure, the drive to Pinard Falls takes a little extra time as you follow orange signs pointing the detour to the trailhead. It's still worth it.

The trail follows an abandoned road bed for the first 0.3 miles, before dropping at the steepest pace of any of the hikes down a series of switchbacks to a view of what the Forest Service says is a 105-foot powerful string of a waterfall cutting down through a narrow canyon.

My girls felt that Pinard was the most scenic of the three, but it's hard to pick. I'd probably pick Moonfalls as my favorite, if only because of the wonderful spelling.

Return to your car and head back the way you came, keeping a close eye not to take a wrong turn and get lost down the gravel roads back to Dorena Lake for a possible swim and back into the civilization of Interstate 5.

Spirit, Moon and Pinard Falls

In a nutshell: Three easy waterfall hikes near Cottage Grove in Umpqua National Forest, southeast of Eugene and just past Dorena Lake.

Difficulty: Mostly easy, but often muddy and sometimes steep

Length: Each hike is about 1 mile round-trip

Directions:

Spirit Falls: From Interstate 5, take exit 174 for Cottage Grove. Follow signs for Dorena Lake, going east on Row River Road 2400 for a total of 19 miles. Past the lake and small towns of Dorena and Culp Creek, the road forks. Veer left onto Layng Creek Road 17 and continue for 8.8 miles to Forest Road 1790. Turn right on Forest Road 1790 and travel for 0.1-mile to the trailhead, a small turnout is located on the right side of the road and sign for Spirit Falls.

Moon Falls: Drive past Spirit Falls on 1790, to a sign pointing to Moon Falls by turning left onto USFS Road 1702. Follow this potholed road 2.7 miles before forking right on Road 728 at a little hiker sign. The trail is 0.3 miles down the road at its end.

Pinard Falls: Normally, you'd double back toward Spirit Falls and follow Road 1790 to Pinard Falls. However, that road is currently closed, so simply follow the large bright orange signs a total of 9 miles from Spirit Falls to Pinard Falls Trailhead.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors reporter in Oregon for 15 years and is host of the Explore Oregon Podcast. To support his work, subscribe to the Statesman Journal. Urness is the author of "Best Hikes with Kids: Oregon" and "Hiking Southern Oregon." He can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.



Pinard Falls in Umpqua National Forest outside Cottage Grove. ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL



Lucy and Rollie Urness look at Spirit Falls in Umpqua National Forest outside Cottage Grove. ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Obituaries

Marvin Lee Hage Sr.

SILVERTON - Marvin Lee Hage Sr., 82, of Silverton, Oregon entered heaven on June 3, 2022. Marvin was born to Roy and Zelma (McClure) Hage on May 20, 1940 in Silverton Oregon, where he grew up on the family farm. After graduating high school, he joined the US Marines. He was proud to be a marine and serve his country; after he was honorably discharged, he became and timber faller, dozer operator and truck driver. Marvin later worked alongside his brother, Larry Hage on the family's grass seed farm outside of Silverton Oregon.



Marvin was an avid outdoorsman he loved hunting for elk and deer while exploring the back woods with his son, Lee Hage. At the age of 80 years old you could still find Marvin down at his seed cleaners combining or up on his tractor doing field work until the sun went down.

Marvin is survived by his son, Lee (Jillian) Hage, step-children: Keith (Teresa) Lehto, Traci (Iyran) Manning and Kyle (Debbie) Lehto; brother, Larry (Leona) Hage, sisters, Verna Hage and Lorraine Kimlinger; Grandchildren: Kody Lehto, Aspen Lynch, Shasta Lynch, Westin Hage, Harper Hage, Darrean Holt, Ezra Holt, James Lehto, Stephanie Young-Lewis; many nieces and nephews; and his wife, Marilyn Hage.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather brother, uncle, and friend. Marvin will be greatly missed by many.

"Dad thank you for all the wonderful adventures we went on together, you will be greatly missed until we meet again in heaven, I love you dad." - Love your best friend, Lee

Memorial service will be held at 1pm, June 25, 2022, at Unger Funeral Chapel in Silverton, Oregon. In lieu of flowers please donate to Serenity Hospice.



A sign points travelers to popular Pinard Falls on a network of Forest Service roads. ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

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All the hiking trails to Spirit, Moon and Pinard falls get very muddy in spring. ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL