

Walking in a Stub Stewart Wonderland!

By Scott Laird

Stub Stewart State Park, located just ten miles south of Vernonia, is a great place to go for a hike. You can take a short easy stroll or spend practically all day walking the many trails, connecting to new trails, and seeing the wonders of nature from many different perspectives-- from great hilltop views, to looking closely at vegetation and wildlife. It can be a quiet place to contemplate nature and our place in it, and enjoy some peace and solitude.



Beautiful views (below) and pristine trails (above) were found all over the park.



Stub Stewart in winter, especially after a freshly fallen snow, can be especially inviting. The contrast of blue sky, green trees and white snow adds to the beauty of a visit, the snow on the trees and the views from the top areas of the park are especially magnificent. Walking a trail when you know you are the first human to have traversed it that morning can give an explorer a certain amount of satisfaction, and the opportunity to examine and follow local wildlife tracks can be a fun activity.

When it snows at Stub Stewart, you can almost guarantee you will be one of the few visitors enjoying the park. The staff does a great job clearing the roads, although when I visited in the early part of the December snows, the visitors center was not open. Trail maps were available in a display outside at the visitors center and park hosts and rangers were evident in the campground and patrolling the roads with snowplows, and would be a source of information.

A pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis would be an excellent way to enjoy the park; or just some good boots, warm clothes and a camera will suffice. It's quiet, it's peaceful, it's beautiful, and it's yours. Winter is a great time to enjoy Stub Stewart.

Vernonia Survives Another Storm

The first storm of the new year didn't take long to materialize, as New years Day brought concerns about flooding when National Weather Service predictions called for rain, melting snow and Flood Warnings for the Nehalem River on January 2nd. Fortunately the rain turned to snow and Vernonians awoke to blue skies and river and creek waters that stayed within their banks. Thankful Vernonians gave a deep sigh of relief.



Rock Creek was higher than the wading pool at Hawkins Park, but stayed in within its banks (left). This time it was snow covering Bridge Street instead of flood waters (below).



A downed tree in downtown; served as another reminder of this year's holiday storms (above). Waters at the confluence of Rock Creek and the Nehalem River got a little high (right).





This Year, Say it with a Gift that Lasts a Lifetime!

CORNERSTONE NATURALS
902 Bridge Street
Vernonia, Oregon 97064
503*429*0335

*here is my heart
Heart
which beats only for you*
Paul Verkeno

