



Eagle photos/Cheryl Hoefler

Lupines and wild columbines are among the variety of abundant wildflowers at Cedar Grove.

## GROVE

Continued from Page C6

and even parking is limited.

However, visitors will be pleasantly rewarded with this accessible venture into our rich forest land. And camping and restrooms are not far away. Billy Fields Forest Camp is just about 10 miles from Cedar Grove, back on Fields Creek Road.

Upon arriving at Cedar Grove, the trailhead from the gravel road seems a bit hard to spot, amid the brush and maze of dirt paths. But start right alongside the sign and you'll be on your way. It's a bit dusty and dry there, but after a few hundred feet, you'll come to a gate, and after passing through that, the scenery and trail changes to a more lush venture, as it enters the forest along the slopes of Aldrich Mountain.

And a cool one, too. On summer days when the John Day Valley temperatures are soaring, Cedar Grove offers a welcoming drop of several degrees. Even in mid-July, lupines and wild columbines are still in colorful abundance.

The trail to the botanical area – and the Alaskan yellow cedars – is clearly visible, well-marked and not long, only about two miles down and back up.

The trail is part of the National Recreation Trails system, and markers on trees keep trekkers on the right path.

But "short" does not mean "easy," and remember – what goes down must come back up.

The trail descends, with several switchbacks, down a steep hillside to the botanical area near Buck Cabin Creek. And, even though the trail is open to the public, it has

not yet been logged out or maintained for the season, so visitors should be prepared to shimmy over or around a few downed logs. A sign at the trailhead does caution its "more difficult" status.

Horses and mountain bikes are welcome on the trail, in addition to foot travelers, but no motorized vehicles.

So, despite the lack of nearby services and a cautionary word on the trail's

difficulty level, Cedar Grove is easy to get to, and quite a spectacular local treasure, waiting to be discovered. Just remember to take plenty of water, snacks, a hiking stick or pole – and a camera for those wildflowers and yellow cedars.



The trail, though well-defined later, has a tricky start from the gravel road, amid the brush and dirt paths trying to camouflage it. But it's there, right alongside the first sign which points the way.

## THE LANDING LODGE

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED



5 STAR SIT-DOWN RESTAURANT REPLACING THE SNACK SHACK  
PRIME RIB EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT (CALL FOR RESERVATIONS)  
PERFECT PLACE TO TAKE A DRIVE AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH FAMILY AND ENJOY SOME GREAT HOME-STYLE COOKING!

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET: \$8.95

SENIOR SPECIAL: \$6.95

MON-SAT: 8 AM-8 PM

SUN: 8 AM-6 PM



71000 EAST MORPHINE LN., HEPPNER • 541-969-3822  
FOR CAMPING RESERVATIONS CALL 541-989-8214

### Muzzy's \$1 \$2 \$3 DOLLAR STORE

**EVERYTHING**  
\$1 \$2 \$3

**Bringing Savings Home**  
Monday - Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Join us on and look for special items

## TASTE OF OREGON'S OLD WEST

COTTONWOOD CANYON STATE PARK  
SEPTEMBER 12-2015

A day for the whole family to sample the good things and fun times along the John Day River.

Highway 206 between Condon and Wasco

[JohnDayRiverTerritory.com](http://JohnDayRiverTerritory.com)  
541.763.2191

Enjoy Art, crafts & music

Discover Local food, wine & beer

Experience horseback rides, & guided hikes

Cottonwood Canyon State Park

Thomas Orchards, Kimberly

Wilson Ranches Retreat, Fossil

**Proudly Serving Grant County Since 1966**

- Your Source for Automotive, Truck and Tractor Parts & Accessories
- Full Automotive Machine Shop
- Outside Salesmen
- Full Line Martin Senour Paints
- ASE-Certified Countermen
- Oxygen & Acetylene
- Steel Sales

**Closed Sundays**

**NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS**

**"NAPA Know How"**

**Great Parts  
Great People  
Great Prices**

**JOHN DAY AUTO PARTS**

721 W. Main Street • John Day  
541-575-1850

## Blue Mountain Care Center

Quality Life - Beautiful Location  
Giving excellent care 24 hrs a day

112 E. 5th St., Prairie City  
541-820-3341