



Date: August 3, 2024

Route: Lower Trailhead, Summer Route

Elevation: 5,594 ft. **Elevation Gain:** 3,398 ft.

Distance: 6.2 miles

Classification: Unrated (U) Scramble

Leader: Cathy Lazarus



Overview

Mt. Ellinor is the most accessible summit in the Olympic Mountains. It is the most southern mountain on the eastern front, making it easy to point out. It is a popular route as it offers sweeping views of the Olympics, Lake Cushman and Puget Sound. There is an upper trailhead and a lower trailhead. We will begin at the lower at 2,600 feet. We will be on the lookout for mountain goats!

Some history: A surveyer named George Davidson named the mountain after his boss's youngest daughter. Other mountains that he named in the Olympics are the Brothers after her two brothers and Mt. Constance after her older sister.

Route Description

We will begin heading northwest on the Mt. Ellinor Trail climbing gently through the lush old growth forest. At about 1.5 miles and a 1300 foot gain we will reach a junction with the upper trail where it steepens and becomes a nonstop workout. After a little over two miles we will break out of the trees into rock strewn slopes. The views become

phenomenal. We will climb through open meadows, switchbacking on the west facing slope with many panoramic viewpoints and then head through a notch. Just before the summit we will swing around to east facing slopes, then switch back up to 360-degree views on the summit that is popular with mountain goats.

Directions

We will be starting at the Lower Trailhead. A Northwest Forest Pass is NOT required at the Lower Trailhead, only the Upper Trailhead. No water or toilet at Lower Trailhead. About 4 hours and 211 miles from Salem

Take Hwy 5 N to exit 104 in Washington for US 101 N toward Aberdeen/Port Angeles. In 6 miles take 101 toward Shelton/Port Angeles. In 29 miles in Hoodspout turn left on WA 119 Lake Cushman Road. Take 119 the 9.3 miles to its end. Turn right on Forest Road 24 and follow 1.6 miles. Take a hard left on Forest Road 2419. You will reach the lower trailhead in 4.9 miles.

There are about 6.5 miles of dusty gravel road but any car can make it with a little care.

Itinerary

This is a very popular mountain and big crowds are expected on weekends so I plan on spending the night before at the trailhead. Big Creek Campground is also a possibility 22 minutes away.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/olympic/recarea/?recid=47789>

7:30 am: Meetup time at Lower Trailhead

7:45: Begin hiking in (2,600 ft.)

9:45: Upper Trail Junction (1.8 miles 3,900 ft.)

10:30: Junction with winter climbing route (2.5miles 4,500 ft.)

12:00: Summit (3.1 miles 5,944 ft.)

12:30: Depart summit

2:45: Trailhead

Packing List:

-Ten essentials (map, compass, whistle, personal first-aid, food, water, sunblock/chapstick, sunglasses, matches/candle/fire starter, headlamp & spare batteries, socks/gloves/hat, emergency blanket/bivy, pocket knife)

-Lunch and snacks

-Water (2-3L)

-Trekking poles (optional but useful)

-Light-weight hiking boots or approach shoes

-Gaiters (optional)

-Synthetic/wool socks

-Synthetic shirt

-Hiking pants

- Hat (warm & sun)
- Lightweight gloves or mittens
- Jacket (warm)
- Windproof/waterproof layers
- Insect repellent

Mountain Goat Rules! I have seen mountain goats on both of my prior trips on Ellinor. Fun to see, but a few things to keep in mind:

Stay 50 yards away at all times. If it starts approaching you, leave. It is not coming towards you because it wants to be friends. Yell and scream at it and wave your arms.

Goats own the trails. If one is on the trail, stop 50 yards from it and wait for it to leave. I had to wait once at an exposed area on Three Fingered Jack once. Not fun.

Pee at least 50 feet off the trail. Mountain goats crave salt and lick human urine. They know that humans urinate on or near a trail so they frequent that area.

Keep alert. They can come around a corner quickly without warning. Proceed around blind corners with caution.

If they are laying down, don't sit near them. Don't approach to get a photo and then get chased.



Weather Link

<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-123.2606204639045&lat=47.521813624051504>

Cancellation: In case of weather I will make the decision to cancel by the evening of August 1.

Phone Numbers: Olympic National Forest Supervisor's Office (360)956-2401

Hood Canal Ranger District: (360) 765-2200

Climbing Team

1. Cathy Lazarus

2. Megan Boeckman

3. Kevin Ball

4. Kaitlin Sommerfeld

5. Chanel Warzynski

6. Tony Sprauer

7. Olivia Ong

8. Jeff Easter

9. Linda Bedard

10. Tim Hale

11. Patrick Harkins

12. Ping Lim

Mount Mount Ellinor, Lower TH

