

Trail Map for LOWER METOLIUS RIVER HIKE

From the locked gate, walk 270 yards on Road 64, then turn off right downhill to the old road below. Follow the old road as it descends down to river level, into stands of firs and incense cedars with a thick understory of maple and thimbleberry.

For the next half mile, the old road winds through the forest next to the river, past old-growth cedars and firs. At 1.2 miles, the road skirts a broad dry flat, where one has good views of several osprey nests in the dead snags overhead.

Beyond this flat, the road turns uphill and, for the next mile, traverses a higher, drier bench above the river, with large ponderosa pines and cross-canyon views. At 1.8 miles, the old road actually climbs up onto Forest Road 64 for about 50 yards, before continuing again below the modern road.

At 2.5 miles, the old road (now recently graded) again reaches the riverside, in a forest of big old-growth firs and cedars with a primeval feeling. Within the next half mile, to the "Road Closed" sign at the hike's end, there is a good selection of shady spots along the rushing river for a lunch and rest break.

Return the same way that you came.

Old Road Ends

Forest Rd. 64

One Half Mile

Road Gate

