



# Come Discover the Quartzville Recreation Corridor and Back Country Byway

## Discovery Areas

**A Partnership in Progress:** The in Quartzville Recreation Corridor and surrounding the Quartzville Back Country Byway are managed in partnership by several public land management agencies and as well as private land owners. If traveling the byway from Sweet Home, the first 12.5 miles is surrounded primarily by private land. Linn County manages most of the parks along Green Peter and Foster Reservoir, while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages most of the dispersed use around the reservoirs. The next 12.5 miles is a mix of private forest lands, and public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Salem District. The last 25 miles of the corridor is managed by the Sweet Home Ranger District and the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. In addition to the recreation opportunities the corridor offers, the byway is a great opportunity to drive through public lands with a wide variety of forest, management practices, and uses. Information about reaching these agencies is provided on the back of this brochure.

**Green Peter Dam:** In 1961, construction of Green Peter and Foster Dams began. They were completed in 1968 at an estimated cost of 82.3 million dollars. Both dams are managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and since their construction, the dams have provided protection from an estimated 600 million dollars worth of potential flooding damage. Green Peter Dam is concrete structure approximately 327 feet in height and 1,500 feet in length. Behind the dam, Green Peter Reservoir extends over 10 miles in length providing for a variety of recreational opportunities including boating, fishing, and swimming.

**A National Wild and Scenic River:** In 1988 the U.S. Congress added the lower 9.6 miles of Quartzville Creek (beginning in the slack waters of Green Peter Reservoir and ending at Galena Creek) to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Quartzville Creek was recognized for the outstanding scenic driving, white water boating, and recreational mining opportunities it offers. The public lands along

the designated segment are managed by the BLM to protect Quartzville Creek's free-flowing qualities and outstanding resource values.

**Exploring Quartzville's Old Growth:** Much of the older forest along the byway is managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service as part of a Late Successional Reserve (LSR's). These reserves were recently established by the Northwest Forest Plan to provide habitat to plant and animal species which are dependent on old-growth forest characteristics. Gazing at old growth forests as you drive along the corridor is great fun, but wandering amongst the giants can really ease the tensions of daily life. Whether you want to climb the ridges of old Cascade Mountains or walk into the Middle Santiam Wilderness, you can pick from several trails (see trail matrix) to do a little exploring.

**Nature's Power:** Whether its wind, water, snow or mud, the forces of nature are most profound when seen as damage to physical features. Floods in 1996 ripped through this drainage, causing millions of dollars in damage to roads and other facilities. A windstorm in 1990 blew trees down in over 2000 acres in the headwaters of Quartzville and Pyramid Creeks. But the flood of 1969 is still one of the more recent events to beat. To get an idea of the power of this flood, stop at bridge #6 where

you can still see the remains of the original concrete bridge. Take a minute to imagine the water levels needed to toss the old bridge aside.

**Huckleberry Picking:** late summer pulls locals and other visitors to the Quartzville area in search of wild berries. Four varieties (red, bigleaf, oval leaf, and Alaska) of huckleberries can be found in this area. Openings in old-growth forests nurture good berry patches, but don't overlook older harvest units where bushes grow dense from deer and elk browsing.

**Managing Forests:** Forests on public lands outside the LSR's are managed for a variety of uses including forest products, habitat, and the protection of water quality. Within the first 12 miles from State Highway 22, many of the stands you pass have been thinned at one time or another. Thinning is a way of helping forest grow by selectively removing some of the trees to reduce

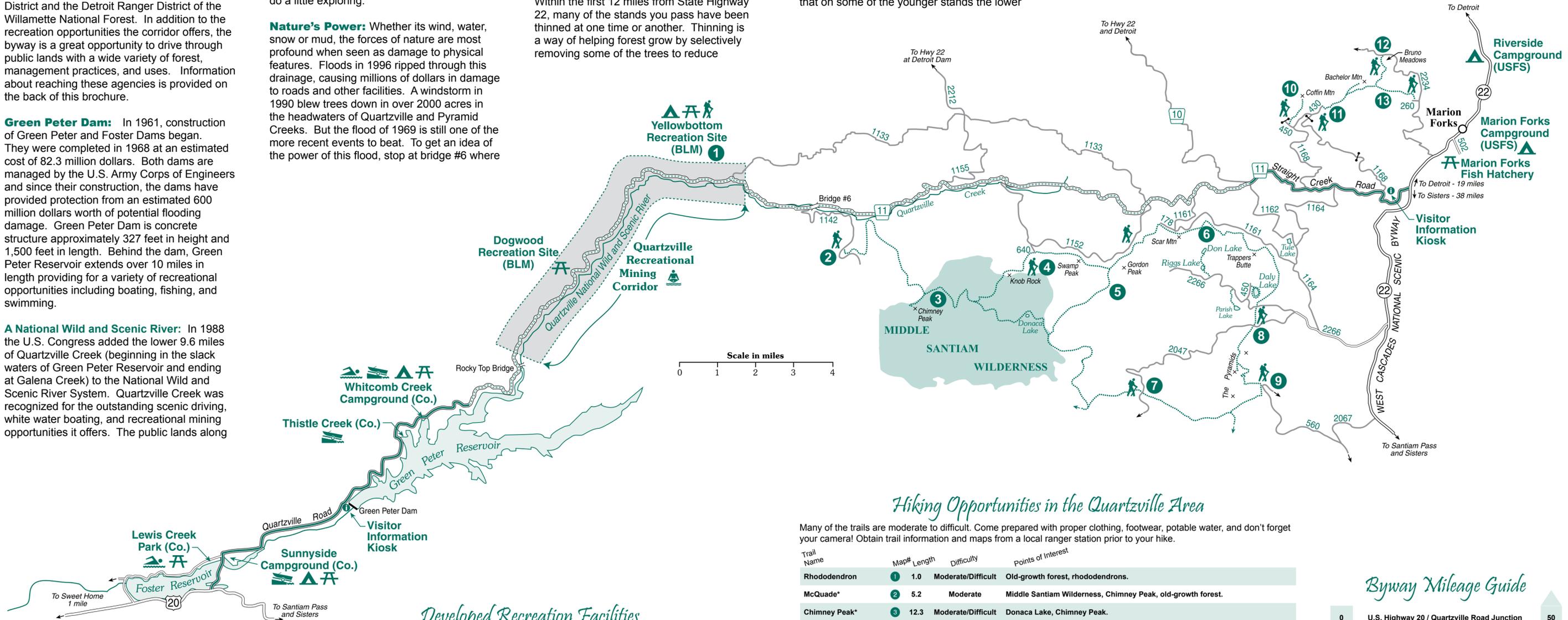
competition for sunlight, nutrients and water. Thinning can also increase tree vigor and health. Allowing more sunlight and moisture in the stand, helps undergrowth and can improve wildlife habitat for a variety of species. You'll see three kinds of thinning along the byway including pre-commercial thinning, commercial thinning and partial cutting. Pre-commercial thinning occurs within 10 to 15 years after an area has been harvested and replanted, while commercial thinning occurs later when tree are larger and generally between 40 to 100 years old. Partial cutting is similar to commercial thinning, however, trees are often older than 100 years old. Partial cutting is a method that is utilized to increase the life of the stand and enhance habitat.

In addition the thinning, you may also notice that on some of the younger stands the lower

third of the limbs on trees have been removed. This pruning reduces the development of knots and produces better quality wood. Western white pine is also pruned to help prevent the spread of white pine blister rust disease. When possible, thinning and pruning benefits are combined with the need for special forest products such as Christmas trees and boughs.

**Wildfire's Legacy:** At milepost 8 from State Highway 22, you can see several prominent features including Cub Point, Buck, Bachelor, and Coffin (named for its ominous box-like appearance) Mountains. With frequent lightning strikes, wildfire has played a key role in the natural processes within this region.

Before suppression was actively practiced, wildfires were generally very intense (hot) and often burn large across the landscape. In the 1890's fires burned much of the area round these peaks, and the age of the stands you see on many of these mountain peaks today began from those fires. Buck Mountain burned a second time in 1967. The intensity of these fires combined with the shallow, rocky soils of most of the upper slopes have limited tree growth after the fires. Large stands of predominately noble fir, blankets most of the area previously burned. Huckleberries also thrive in open areas created by wildfire. Take a hike on the Mountain Trail and look for evidence of past fires.



## Hiking Opportunities in the Quartzville Area

Many of the trails are moderate to difficult. Come prepared with proper clothing, footwear, potable water, and don't forget your camera! Obtain trail information and maps from a local ranger station prior to your hike.

Trail Name	Map#	Length	Difficulty	Points of Interest
Rhododendron	1	1.0	Moderate/Difficult	Old-growth forest, rhododendrons.
McQuade*	2	5.2	Moderate	Middle Santiam Wilderness, Chimney Peak, old-growth forest.
Chimney Peak*	3	12.3	Moderate/Difficult	Donaca Lake, Chimney Peak.
Swamp Peak*	4	6.1	Moderate	Middle Santiam Wilderness, Cascade peaks.
Gordan Peak*	5	4.6	Moderate	Middle Santiam Wilderness, Cascade peaks, old growth.
Scar Mountain*	6	8.9	Moderate	Cascade peaks and huckleberry picking.
South Pyramid Creek*	7	7.2	Moderate	Middle Santiam River, old-growth forest.
North Pyramid*	8	3.4	Moderate	Three Pyramids, wildflowers.
Three Pyramids*	9	2.1	Easy/Moderate	Three Pyramids, wildflowers.
Coffin Lookout*	10	1.5	Moderate/Difficult	Cascade peaks, staffed fire lookout during fire season, lookout area closes at dusk.
Bachelor Mountain*	11	1.9	Easy/Difficult	Former fire lookout with views of Cascade peaks, remnants of wildfire (snags).
Bruno Meadows	12	1.0	Easy/Moderate	Old-growth forest, rock gardens, wildflowers, wetland vegetation, views.
Bugaboo Ridge	13	2.5	Easy/Moderate	Old-growth forests at lower elevations, wildflowers, Cascade peaks.

\* Trail Park Pass is required for these trails. Daily or annual passes may be purchased at National Forest Offices and participating local businesses in Sweet Home or Detroit.

## Developed Recreation Facilities

Quartzville has a variety of developed camping, picnicking, and boating facilities. Most of these sites open in May and close in September. Check with local management agency about off-season use.

Recreation Facility	Fee	Camp sites	Drinking water	Toilets	Comments
Lewis Creek (CO)	\$ Day-use	Faucet	Flush (A)	Flush (A)	Foster Reservoir, boat moorage available.
Sunnyside (CO)	\$ 165	Faucet	Flush (A)	X	Showers, RV Hookups, Dump Station, and Group Facilities.
Whitcomb (CO)	\$ 39	Faucet	Vault (A)	X	Swimming beach and easy access to Green Peter Reservoir.
Thistle Creek (CO)	Day-Use		Vault (A)	X	Boat and vehicle parking.
Dogwood (BLM)	Day-Use		Vault (A)		Picnic sites and river frontage.
Yellowbottom (BLM)	\$ 22	Hand Pump	Vault (A)		Picnic sites, great swimming hole, and a hiking trail.
Riverside (USFS)	\$ 37	Faucet	Vault		Along scenic North Santiam River.
Marion Forks (USFS)	\$ 15	Faucet	Vault		Along Marion Creek next to fish hatchery. Hatchery tours

(A) = Accessible

## Byway Mileage Guide

0	U.S. Highway 20 / Quartzville Road Junction	50
1	Sunnyside Campground	49
5	Visitor Information Kiosk / Green Peter Dam	45
9	Thistle Creek Boat Ramp	41
11	Whitcomb Creek Campground	39
18	Dogwood Recreation Site	32
24	Yellowbottom Recreation Site	26
28	Road 1142 / Trail Access	22
35/40	Road 1152 / Trail Access	15/10
42	Road 1161 / Trail Access	8
46	Road 1168 / Trail Access	4
49	Visitor Information Kiosk	1
50	State Highway 22 / Straight Creek Road Junction	0

**Map Legend**

- Quartzville Back Country Byway - 2 Lanes, Paved
- Quartzville Back Country Byway - 1 Lane, Paved
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Trail
- USFS Route Number (Primary / Other)
- Close Road (foot traffic only)

**Recreation Symbol Legend**

- Camping
- Day Use
- Trail Head
- Boat Ramp