

WSU TRI-CITIES



HIKING GUIDE

**A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE
TO HIKING IN THE
TRI-CITIES AREA**

**RATTLESNAKE SLOPE
WILDLIFE AREA**

**JUNIPER DUNES
WILDERNESS**

SKYLINE LOOP

LANGDON TRAIL

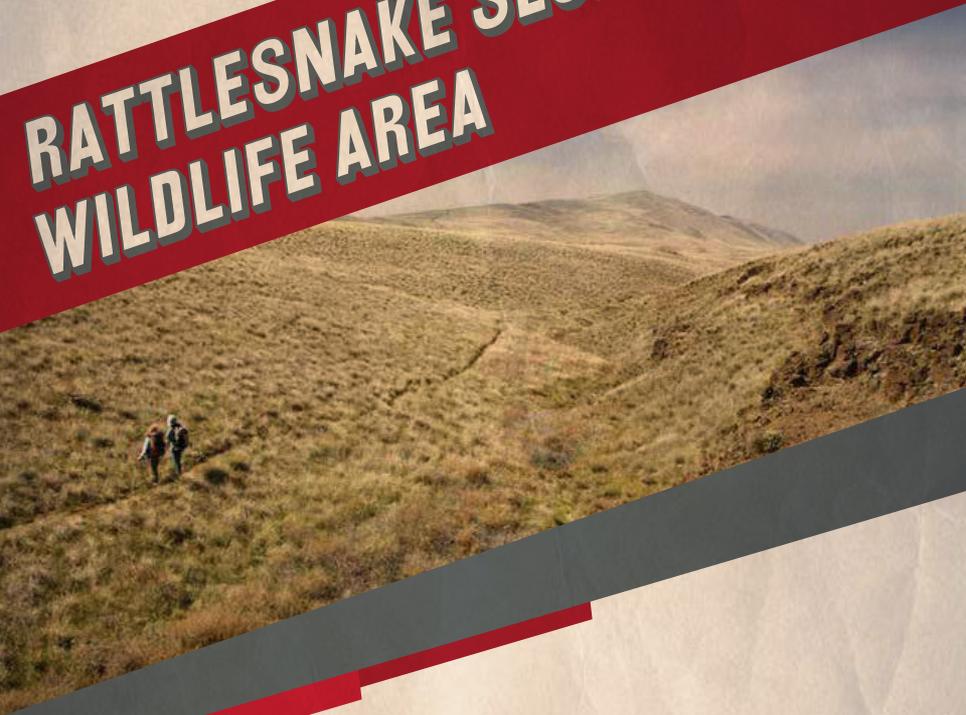
SACAGAWEA HERITAGE TRAIL

CHAMNA NATURAL PRESERVE



**WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY
TRI-CITIES**

RATTLESNAKE SLOPE WILDLIFE AREA



LOCATION: CENTRAL WASHINGTON - TRI-CITIES

LENGTH: 5.0 MILES, ROUNDRIP

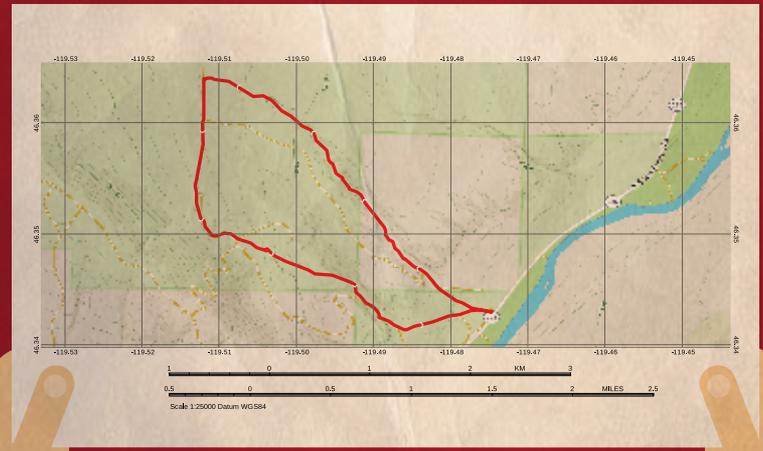
ELEVATION GAIN: 1,600 FT.

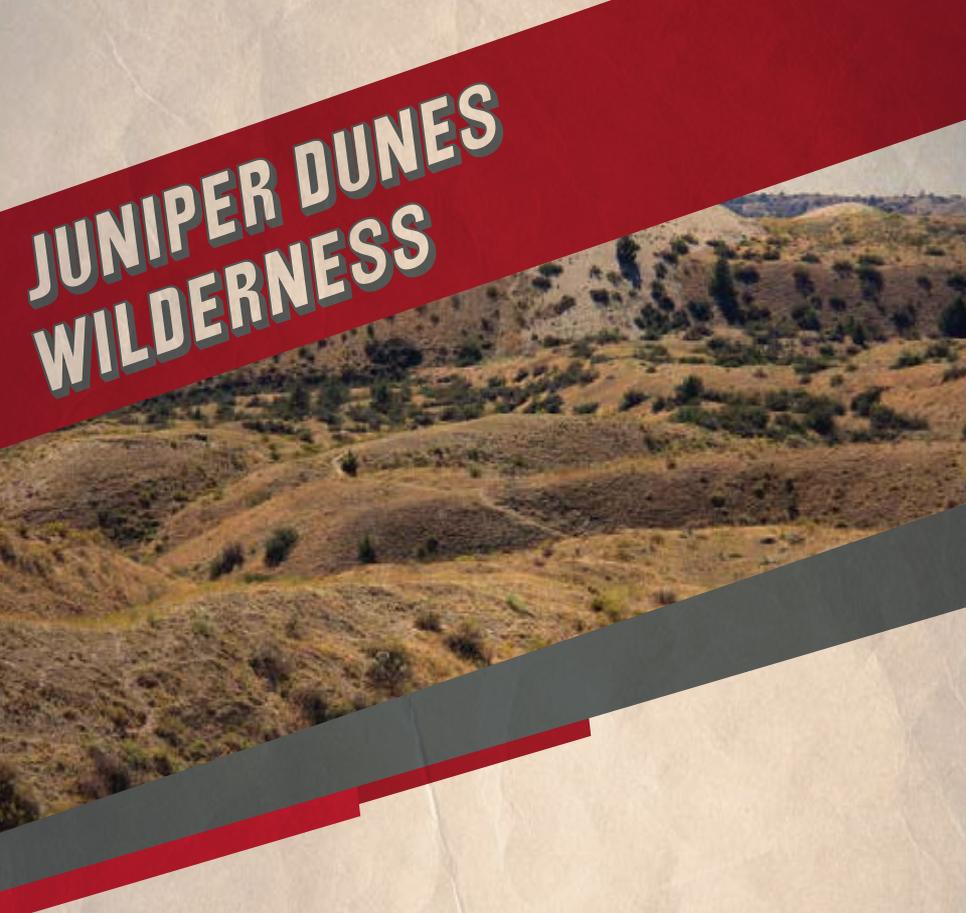
HIGHEST POINT: 2,000 FT.

Drive east on Interstate 82 to exit 96 for Benton City. After exiting, turn left and drive through Benton City. Continue north on State Route 225. At 7.3 miles from I-82, find a fenced parking area on the left (west) side of the highway. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife permit required.

From the parking area, hike due west into the main canyon gully, gaining elevation steadily. In the first 2 miles of trekking through the open country, you'll gain nearly 1200 feet in elevation. As you reach the top of the ridge, take note of the black volcanic rock formations along the spine, then angle off to the south to find the bottom of a second canyon/gully with another well-trod trail. Drop down along this trail to about 3.5 miles, then turn east to close a loop of nearly 5 miles.

Upland birds love this sprawling desert prairie. The ground-hugging birds sprint among the tufts of plants. They take refuge and find dinner in such glorious wildflowers as balsamroot, large-headed clover, wild onion, and canyon-bottom communities of beautiful orange globe mallow.





JUNIPER DUNES WILDERNESS

LOCATION: CENTRAL WASHINGTON - TRI-CITIES

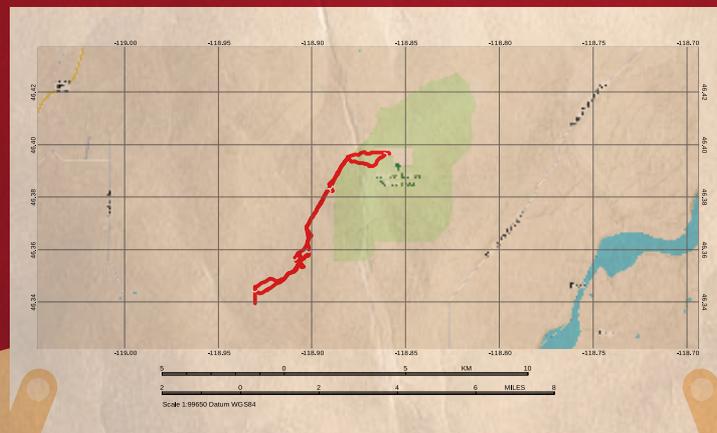
LENGTH: 15.0 MILES, ROUNDTrip

ELEVATION GAIN: 300 FT.

HIGHEST POINT: 1,050 FT.

From Highway 395 near Pasco, travel east on US 12 to the junction with the Pasco-Kahlotus Highway. Turn north and travel 5.6 miles to Peterson Road (poorly marked, but with a crop duster airstrip, grain silo, and an extra-large yellow mailbox on the east side of the road). Turn west on Peterson Road, a rough, increasingly narrow and bumpy gravel road. Continue four miles to the first of the Bureau of Land Management kiosks within the off-highway vehicle (OHV) park and park in the open parking area approximately 100 yards beyond the kiosk if the ground is dry and the sand is soft. It is a 3.5 mile walk through the OHV area from here to the wilderness boundary.

Hikers need to be well versed in map and compass navigation skills when visiting here. There are numerous game trails crisscrossing the wilderness, but no maintained hiking trails. Although the entire wilderness is fenced, and walking the boundary would total roughly 15 miles, a visitor would get little sense of the wild nature of this wilderness by sticking to the fence line.



BADGER MOUNTAIN SKYLINE LOOP



LOCATION: CENTRAL WASHINGTON - TRI-CITIES

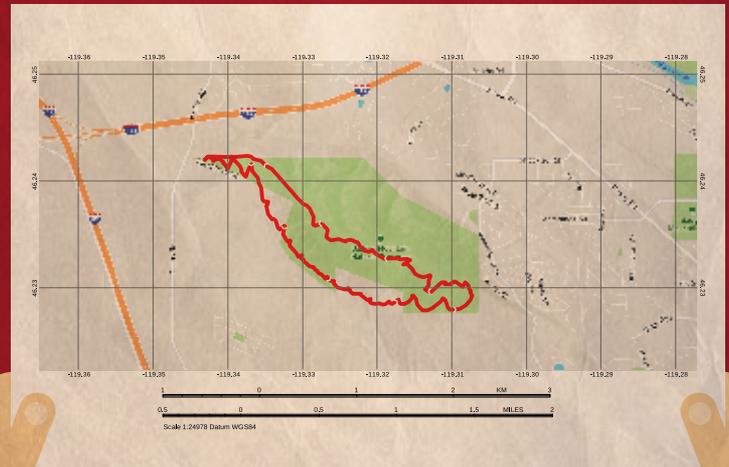
LENGTH: 3.25 MILES, ROUNDTrip

ELEVATION GAIN: 1,579 FT.

From the west on I-182 in Richland, take exit 3. Turn right on to Queensgate and continue to Keene Road (stoplight). Turn left onto Keene Road and continue to Shockley Road (first right, about ½ mile). Turn right onto Shockley Road and continue as the road turns sharply to the left becoming Queensgate again. Follow Queensgate to the end. From the east on I-182, in Richland, take exit 3A. Follow the exit ramp as it curves around to the right and merges with Queensgate. Continue to Keene Road and follow the directions above.

From Trailhead Park, head up to the kiosk at the base of a small canyon, where you will begin hiking, up the aptly named Canyon Trail. This climbs uphill gently through late wildflowers, sagebrush and bunchgrass. The trail has been laid out to take the huff'n'puff out of the elevation gain. Long stretches seem flat, but in reality, gently and constantly rise.

At about the 1100-foot mark, and half a mile from the trailhead, arrive at a small granite boulder, marking the maximum height of Lake Lewis -- 1,250 feet. Lake Lewis was the gigantic temporary lake formed by the great Missoula Floods 11,000 years ago.



BADGER MOUNTAIN LANGDON TRAIL



LOCATION: CENTRAL WASHINGTON - TRI-CITIES

LENGTH: 6.0 MILES, ROUNDRIP

HIGHEST POINT: 1,579 FT.

To access the Sagebrush Trailhead: From I-90, take exit 110 for I-82 E towards Yakima. Follow I-82 E for 104 miles and take exit 104 for Dallas Road. Turn left onto Dallas Road and follow it 2 miles to the top of the hill. Turn right onto 210 PR, the trailhead parking lot will be up the road to the right of the gate.

Unlike other trails on Badger Mountain, the Langdon Trail rolls along with gentle ups and downs as it follows the terrain in and out of gulleys, making for a delightful 6-mile round trip amble just above an apple orchard. It crosses a section of private property owned by the orchard; it was the generous spirit of the landowner that allowed the trail to be built at this location.

Access this new route on the west end of Badger Mountain by climbing the Skyline Trail to the half-mile mark where there is a junction. Take the right-hand fork to continue on to the other end of the Preserve. From the east, start by taking the Sagebrush Trail to a junction about three-quarters of a mile from Trailhead Park and veer left.



SACAGAWEA HERITAGE TRAIL



**LOCATION: TRI-CITIES (ACCESS POINTS
AVAILABLE IN RICHLAND, PASCO,
AND KENNEWICK)**

LENGTH: 23.0 MILES

This 23-mile paved trail runs through the cities of Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick. It is also wheelchair accessible. Displaying interpretive areas, the trail was conceived of and built to be an amenity for locals and an attraction for visitors. Dedicated to the woman who helped Lewis and Clark complete their expedition, the trail displays the stark shrub steppe environment, and the mighty Columbia River in a lovely outing accessible to all.

Beginning in Sacajawea State Park, it loops along the Columbia River through all three Tri-Cities, making a large lollipop and, rejoining the main track around mile 4. The trail boasts interpretive signs regarding natural history, culture, and historic events in this area.



CHAMNA NATURAL PRESERVE



LOCATION: CARRIER RD. RICHLAND, WA

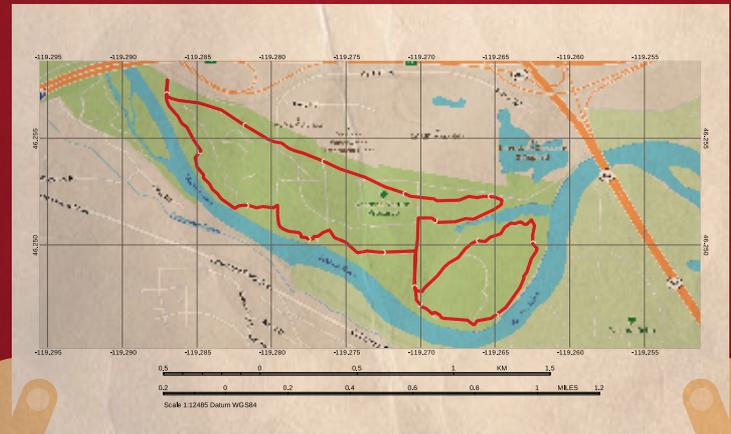
LENGTH: 3.0 MILES, ROUNDRIP

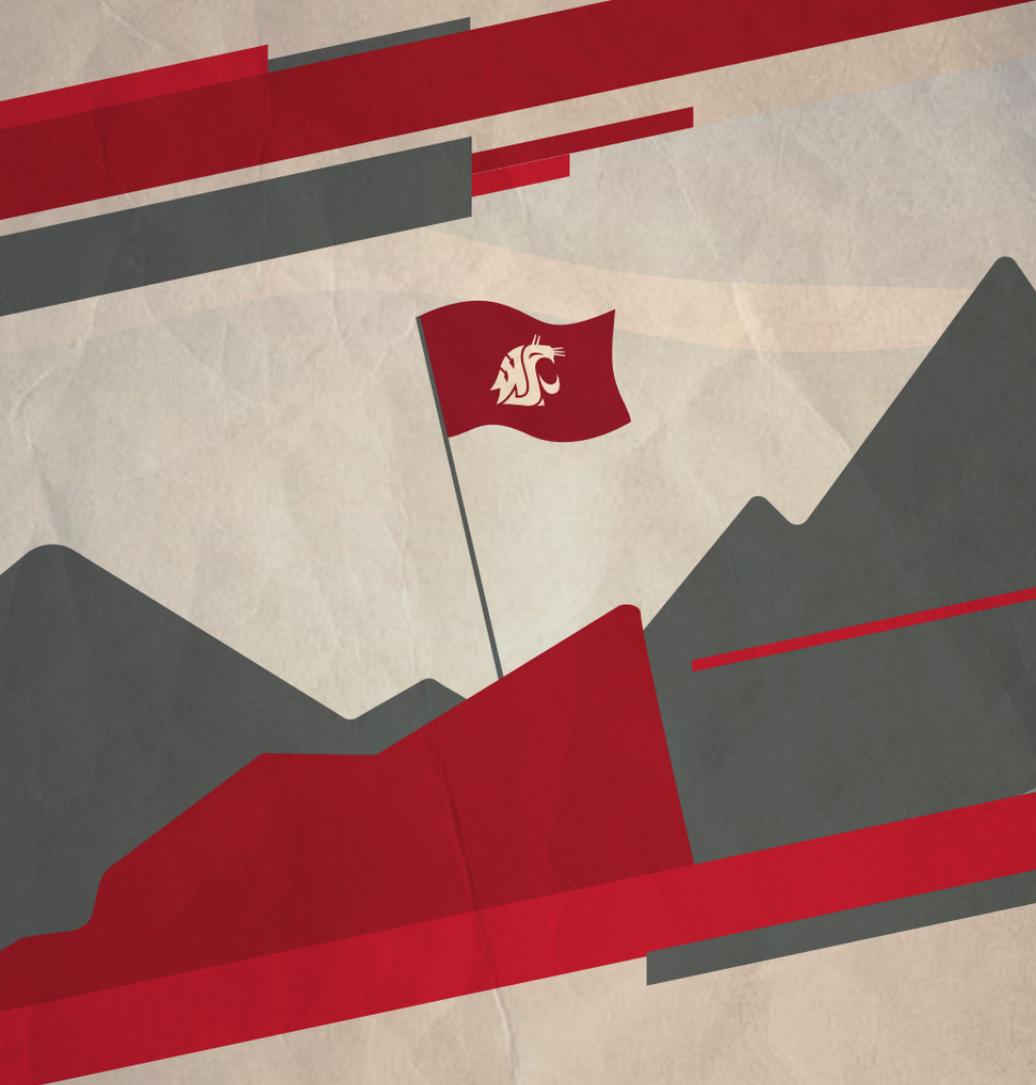
HIGHEST POINT: 350 FT.

In Richland, get on Stevens Drive heading south for about 1 mile, then turn left onto Wellsian Way. Continue for about a mile, then turn left onto Aaron Drive. Proceed a half mile, then make a right onto Jadwin Avenue. Continue for about 200 yards, then turn right onto Carrier Road. Continue on Carrier Road to a left turn onto Chamna Natural Preserve.

Enjoy riding on the labyrinth of trails that wind through this 276-acre dog friendly park where you could easily become lost if it weren't for the ubiquitous and well-placed maps. Many of the trails were cut through dense brush and seem like tunnels as you ride through them. The trails lead alongside the Yakima River through a variety of landscapes including old-growth sagebrush, grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands.

Although the terrain can change very quickly from sand to mud to river rock, the most technical parts of these trails appear as the occasional low branch or a hairpin corner. This is a great place to ride year-round, but high water sometimes keeps the lower trails impassable in the spring. If you visit in the summer, plan an early ride to beat the heat. Mountain biking through the Chamna Preserve is as fun as it is beautiful.





Campus Recreation

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
TRI-CITIES

INFORMATION COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION