



RECREATION OPPORTUNITY GUIDE

Olympic National Forest

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/olympic>



Recommended Season

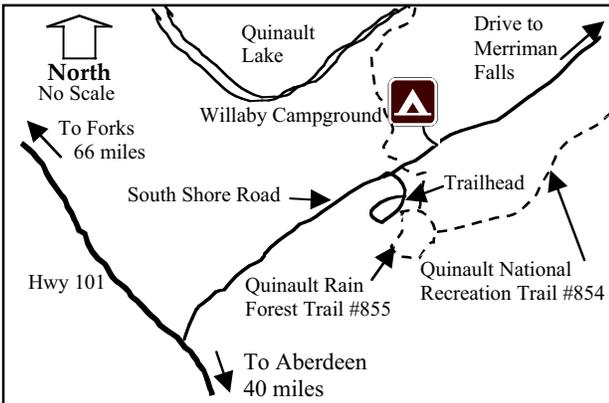
SPRING SUMMER FALL WINTER



Merriman Falls

Pacific Ranger District - Quinault Office
353 South Shore Road P.O. Box 9
Quinault, WA 98575 (360) 288-2525

ACCESS: Drive US Highway 101 to the Quinault Lake South Shore Road. Turn east and drive 6 miles to an unsigned creek and falls.



QUINAULT HIKES FOR ENJOYING WATER SCENERY: The **Quinault Rain Forest Nature Trail** is a short _ mile loop trail that can be walked in 45-60 minutes.

Interpretive signs provide information on many rain forest features. A narrow gorge cut by a cascading stream, dense vegetation, towering conifer trees, a bog, and a nurse log are some of the interesting features seen from this trail. **The Quinault National Recreation Trail** provides an extended 4-mile walk, beyond the short Nature Trail, deep into the rain forest and along the shore of Quinault Lake. Allow 2 to 3 hours to hike the National Recreation Trail. This loop trail can be accessed from the F.S. Quinault Office, Lake Quinault Lodge, both Willaby and Falls Creek Campgrounds and at the back of the Quinault Rain Forest Nature Trail loop. A free trail map is available at the F.S. Quinault office.

DESCRIPTION: Merriman Creek and Falls are a short distance beyond the Colonel Bob Trailhead. The Creek is not signed, however, the Falls are easily seen from the South Shore Road. Parking is limited to parallel parking along either side of the road. Be sure to pull completely off the road so as not to block traffic. Use caution opening car doors and when crossing the South Shore Road.

The temperate rain forest is a lush environment where club moss' are draped in long tendrils from the branches of bigleaf maples, diffused light shimmers through a high canopy of evergreen trees, and an emerald carpet of mosses, ferns, lichens and tiny plants cover the forest floor. Summer fog, mild temperatures, and over 145 inches (12 feet) of annual rainfall combine to create an ideal environment for the dense forests, lush undergrowth, cascading streams and waterfalls. Some of the largest Douglas-fir, Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, and Western redcedar are known to exist in the Olympic rain forest. Mosses, lichens, ferns, and many kinds of wild flowers thrive in the cool climate of the temperate rain forest.

PASS REQUIRED: A Northwest Forest Pass is required on all vehicles parked at the Rain Forest Trailhead. **NOTE:** A \$3 Day Pass is available at the trailhead and is only valid at this trailhead. A Pass is not needed to view Merriman Falls.



Merriman Falls