

## DRIFT CREEK FALLS INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

Fall in love with Drift Creek Falls. Use this map and brochure to learn about the area's natural wonders that make the Oregon Coast Range such a special place to be.

### 1 SHHHH! WELCOME TO THE NURSERY

It's easy to forget that tall trees once started as tiny seedlings. To get a leg – or make that a “log” – up on the competition, seedlings will take root on decomposing stumps and logs to rise above the dense forest floor. These “nurse logs” function as a nursery for baby trees, giving them the warmth, nutrients and valuable height advantage to survive.



### 2 NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

This footbridge traverses an ephemeral stream, a stream that flows only briefly during and following a period of rainfall. Can you hear the bubbling water? Ephemeral streams are great at filtering water and help improve water quality. They also provide a wide array of ecological functions including forage, cover, nesting, and movement corridors for wildlife.



### 3 THE STORY OF UNDERSTORY

The optional 1-mile North Loop Trail accesses old-growth trees, but also features vine maples, huckleberry and salmonberry bushes, and a variety of shrubs and ferns. This shorter “understory” vegetation provides important food and shelter for many insects, birds, and animals.



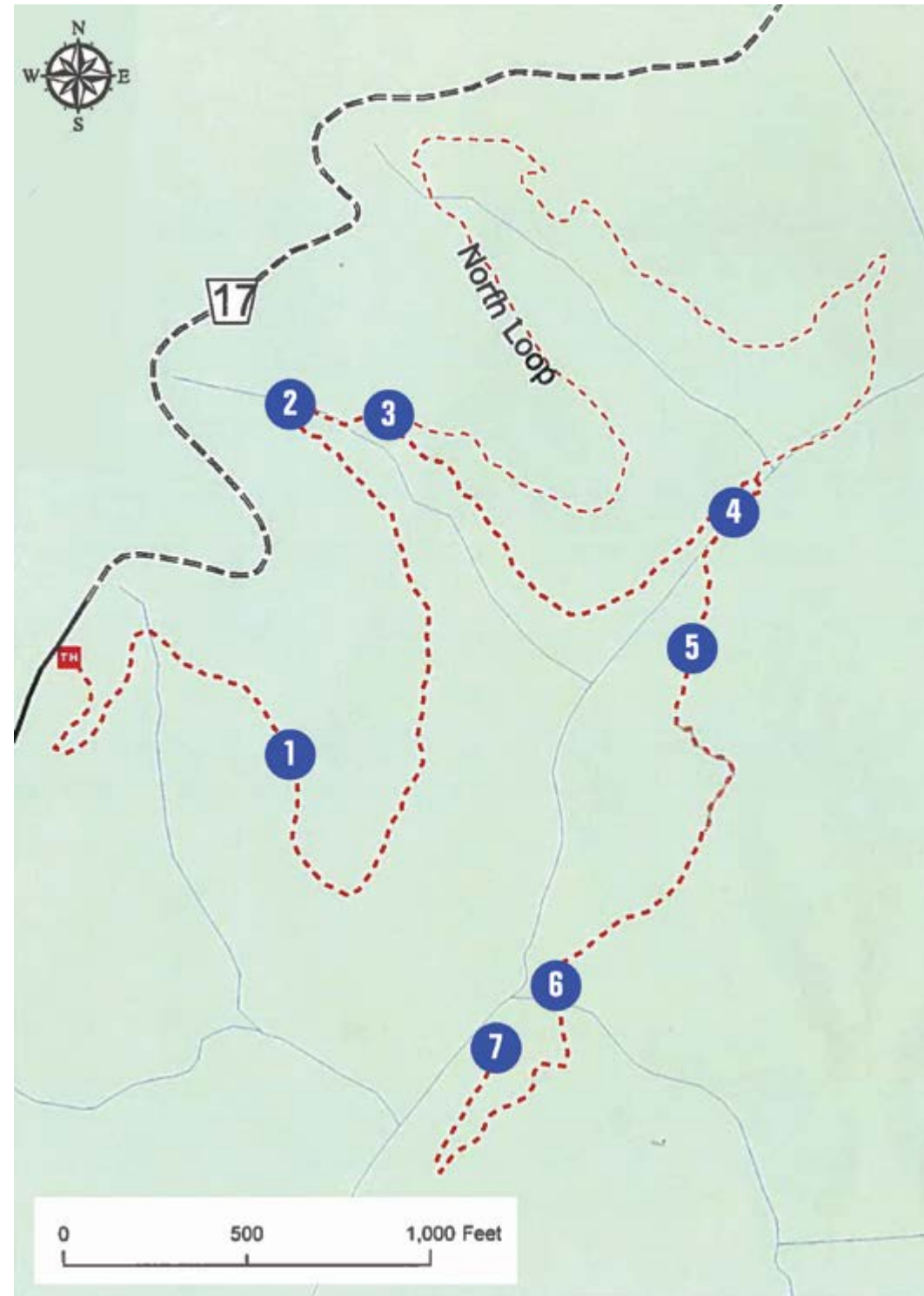
### 4 STREAMS GO BEFORE THE FALLS

The majority of water that plunges 75 feet over Drift Creek Falls originates here at Horner Creek (to the left). There is a network of tributaries and underground streams which produce the torrent eventually witnessed at the falls.



## DRIFT CREEK FALLS TRAIL

Length: 3 miles round trip, North Loop is 1 mile • Elevation Gain: 490 feet



### 5 A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

Look up! The dense canopy of limbs, boughs, and leaves traps warmth and moisture below. Protected from the elements, animals can thrive in this lush environment. The area is home to bear, deer, elk, mountain lions, spotted owls, flying squirrels, giant pacific salamanders, salmon and trout.



### 6 THE SUSPENSE IS THRILLING ME

The suspension bridge over Drift Creek Falls spans 240 feet, hanging 100 feet above the canyon floor. Built in 1997, all the materials were flown in by helicopter. The bridge can support 165,000 pounds (for perspective, a log truck weighs 80,000 pounds).



### 7 LAVA FLOWS, WATER FALLS

In 2010, the rock face of Drift Creek Falls broke away to reveal columnar basalt, an igneous, volcanic rock. Part of the Siletzia formation, a large igneous province in the Oregon and Washington Coast Range created 55 million years ago, this formation is similar to the flows found on the Hawaiian Islands.

