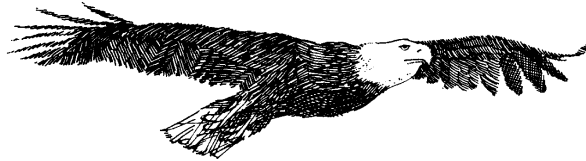


8. Birds of Prey in the Canyon

Have you seen the large birds that fly in the canyon and along the ridge tops? They are probably birds of prey. As you hike the trail, look around you for one of these amazing birds.



You may see a red-tailed hawk or a golden eagle soaring above you in search of small mammals any time of the year. Down along the river, look for two fish-eating birds of prey. Osprey may be seen in the spring and summer while endangered bald eagles are often spotted during the winter.

9. A Winter Home

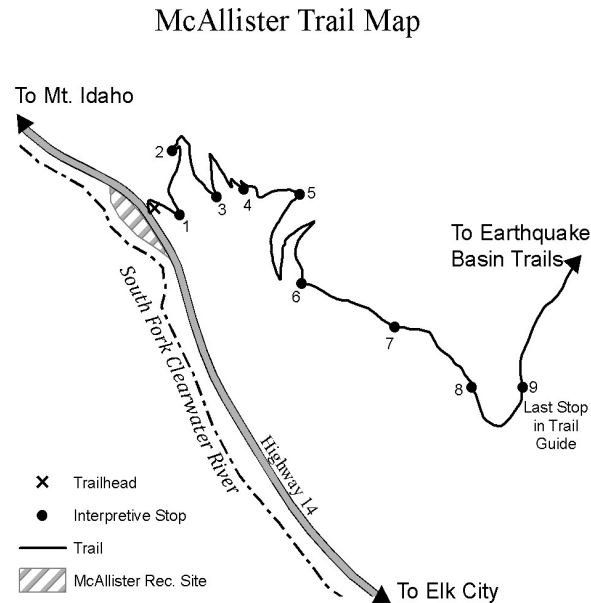
During the winter, this valley called Earthquake Basin, is home to 300 elk and several hundred deer. Elk, white-tailed deer, and mule deer migrate to this area as the snow gets deep at the higher elevations.

Why do elk and deer come here? This valley is at low elevations and has southern exposures. Consequently, food is more accessible because there is less snow. Elk and deer are protected from severe weather and disturbance by people because of the hills surrounding the valley.

At this final stop, take a few minutes to look for elk in the valley below. Look at the burnt trees and the rocks. Listen for the river and the birds. Feel the hot sun or the cool breeze.



Enjoy the experience of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.



About the Trail & What to Bring

This trail winds up the mountain to Earthquake Basin. It is fairly steep and rugged. Distance one way is approximately one mile.

Small numbered signs are located along the trail indicating the section in the trail guide corresponding to the spot on the trail. Read this information to learn interesting details about the forest environment.

Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changing weather conditions. Binoculars are helpful for spotting wildlife. The guided trail does not have to be the end of your hike. Many miles of closed roads that are open to hikers continue into and around the basin. You will be able to see evidence of the fires that occurred here. During the winter you may get the chance to see large herds of deer and elk.

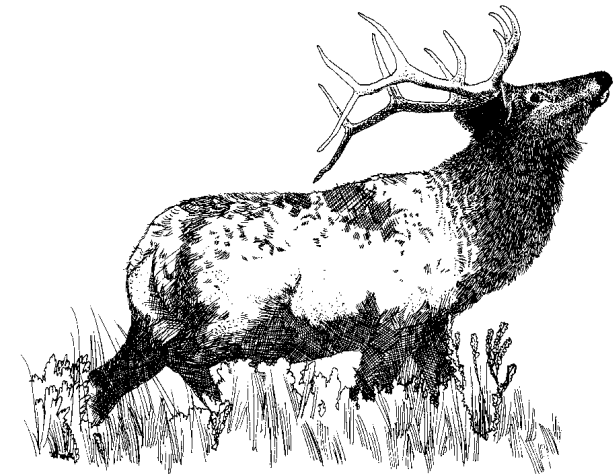


For more information contact:
Salmon River Ranger District
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
208-839-2211
or 208-983-1950



Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Welcome to the McAllister Trail

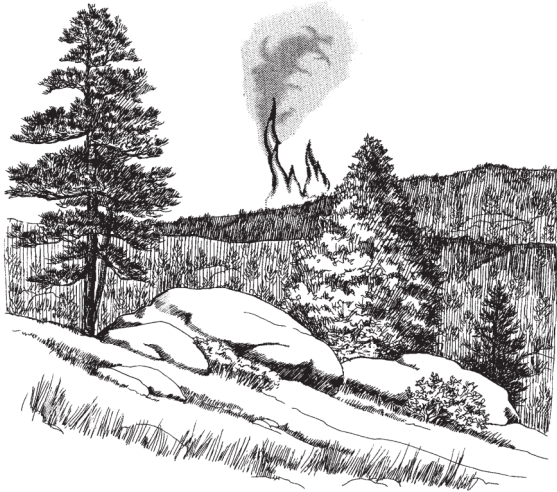


Come discover the forest environment on this self-guided hiking trail. See elk and deer in the winter, learn about the effects of fire, and enjoy spectacular mountain views. So, put on your hiking shoes and enjoy the forest!

1. History of McAllister

In 1930, Bob McAllister established this area as a mining claim and home site. The dam you see was designed to collect water for his house and orchard. If you look hard, you may see the fruit trees he planted.

In 1968, when he died, the Forest Service acquired the land. In 1969, the McAllister Recreation Site was created.



2. Fire in an Earthquake

Intense wildfires burned this area and Earthquake Basin in 1967, 1977, and 2005. You can see a history of these fires in the burned, blackened tree trunks as well as the open expanses of the basin.

All of the plants in this area have been affected by fire in some way. Frequent, fast-burning fires kill small trees, bushes, and shrubs leaving space for other plants. Grasses often survive these fires or start to grow quickly after a fire.



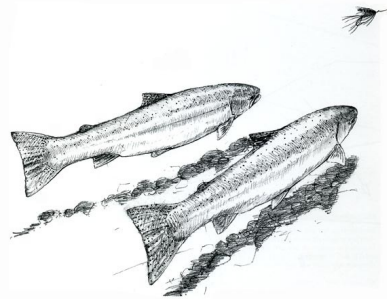
Ponderosa pine trees (the large trees with reddish bark and long needles) are adapted to frequent fires. They have thick, corky bark and

deep roots which allow them to survive most fires.

3. Spawning Steelhead

Do you see the shallow, gravel-bottomed pool in the river below you? This is ideal **spawning** (reproductive) habitat for steelhead trout. Adult fish construct one to three spawning beds in gravel and then female fish lay eggs there.

Scan the river below for spawning steelhead in April and May. To spot the fish, look for long, hovering shadows. Look for brighter patches of gravel to spot spawning beds.



4. Idaho's Rocky Past

Pick up a rock. Feel it and look at it closely.

These rocks are **granite** and they sparkle because of the minerals called biotite and muscovite. These rocks are 70-140 million years old.

About 100 million years ago a large mass of molten rock began moving upward from deep beneath the earth's surface. This rock solidified to form the granites that make up the Idaho Batholith. The rocks in this area are from a branch of the main body of the batholith.

5. Wet Haven on a Dry Hillside

Is this spot different than any other spot on the trail? YES!

Look around and notice that the rest of the trail winds through dry country. It is cooler, quieter, and wetter here. This is home to different types of plants and animals than elsewhere.

This area is a microsite, a small area that can be wet or dry. If we were in a wet area with a dry spot in the middle, the microsite would be the dry area.

6. 600 Miles to a Salmon's Home

If you were a bird, it would be 400 miles to the ocean. If you were a fish, it would be over 600 miles! Every year young Chinook salmon and steelhead make this journey downstream to the ocean, while adults return from the ocean to spawn.

It takes 1-3 months to reach the ocean through the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia Rivers. The trip upstream can take salmon 4 months, and steelhead trout over 10 months. That's a long journey!

7. Did You Hear Something?

Along this trail there are good spots to look and listen for wildlife. If you stop and listen for a moment you can hear many different bird calls.



Look and listen for coyotes and squirrels. If you are lucky you might hear a coyote's high-pitched howl in the early morning or hear a squirrel's loud chatter on a sunny afternoon.

