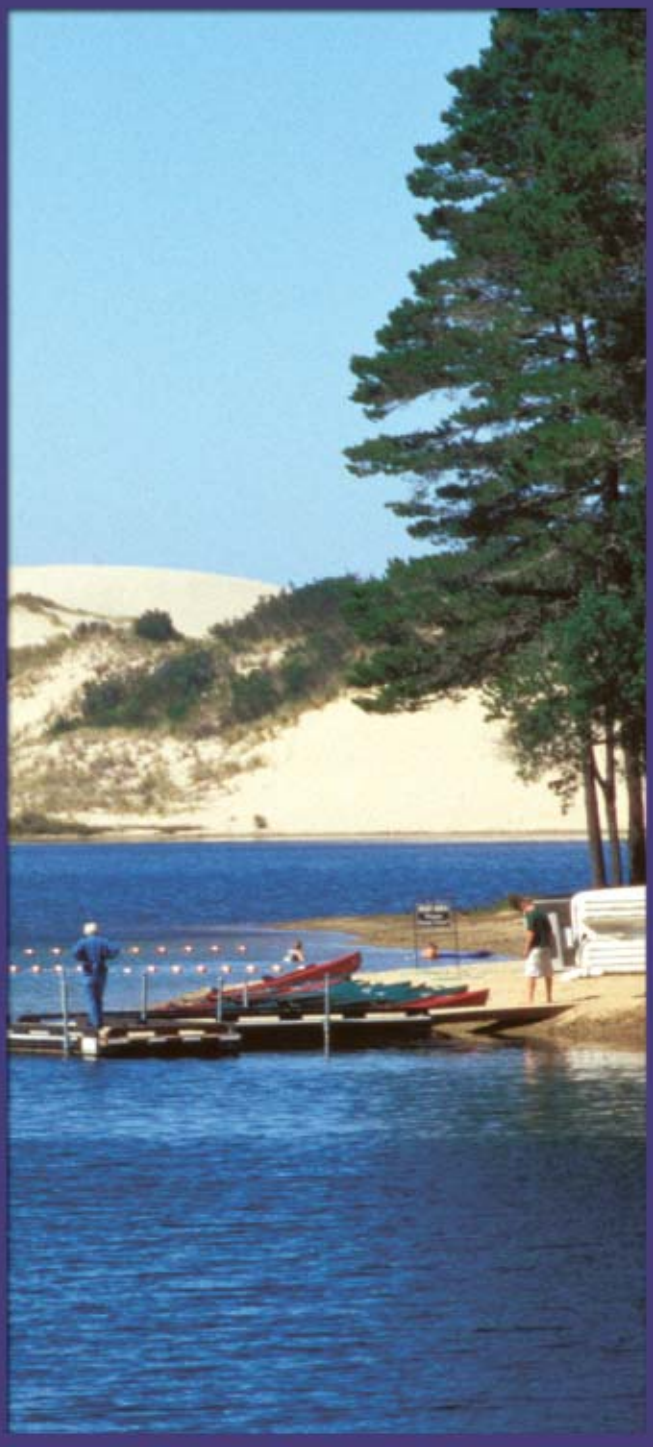
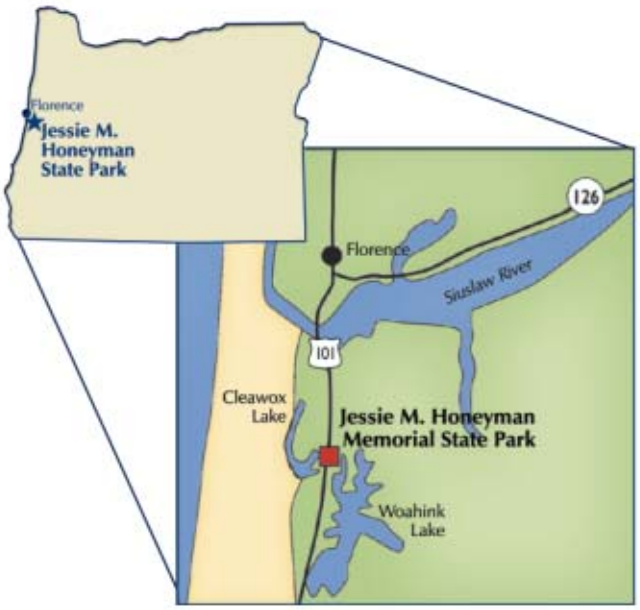
Honeyman State Park





Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
1115 Commercial St. NE, Suite 1
Salem, OR 97301-1002
www.oregonstateparks.org

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Welcome to Jessie M. Honeyman

Just three miles south of Florence on Oregon's spectacular central coast, Honeyman State Park is 500-plus acres of outdoor enjoyment. This popular year-round campground has three freshwater lakes, hundreds of campsites, picnic areas, hiking trails, old-growth Douglas-firs, and dunes, dunes, dunes—two miles of dunes, to be precise, between the park and the ocean.

Honeyman is truly a park for all seasons. Spring brings out the pink rhododendrons. Come summertime, this is a great place for reunions. In fall, huckleberries and blackberries are ripe for the picking, and during the winter, off-roaders are grateful for easy access to the dunes.

Swimming, Kayaking, Picnicking at Cleawox Lake

Visitors entering the park from the west side of Highway 101 are treated to a view of pristine Cleawox Lake, an 85–acre oasis shrouded on three sides by towering dunes. The historic CCC *(see sidebar)* bathhouse built in 1939, now the park store, faces the lake. The store is open Memorial Day weekend, through Labor Day weekend. Sit on the patio and watch the swimmers in the roped off swimming area. (No lifeguard on duty.) Rent a kayak, canoe, or pedal boat, or join a kayak tour. Offered during the summer, these tours take you out to the far reaches of the lake, and if you're lucky, you'll see an osprey catching his fish dinner. The ospreys aren't the only ones who like the fish, though—the lake has a local reputation as a great fishing hole.

The serene area next to the lake is for day- use. Sitting amidst tall, old-growth Douglas-fir trees, this area is perfect for a quiet romantic lunch or lively family reunion. It features a volleyball area, ball field, a reservable gazebo, and two non-reservable picnic shelters.

Woahink Lake is located on the east side of Highway 101, across from Cleawox Lake and the campground. On its 26 miles of shoreline, the lake offers a public boat ramp, and shares its waters with motorboats, sailboats, canoes and kayaks. A swimming area is roped off at East Woahink.

The Woahink Lake day-use area is a vast, grassy expanse scattered with picnic tables and large open spaces to play catch, throw a Frisbee, or organize group activities.

Nature Trails

Originally designed and cleared by the CCC in the 1930s, Honeyman's trail system weaves in and out of the park's luscious grounds. A mile-long interpretive trail stretches from the historic Cleawox bathhouse to the campground registration booth, with eight stops that offer insight into the life and history of the park. A ½ mile trail connects the Cleawox day-use area with the group camp on Woahink Lake. The trail crosses Highway 101. Another ½ mile trail connects the Cleawox day-use area with the interpretive trail. Honeyman trails come alive with famous rhododendron blooms every spring and summer.

Fishing is a popular pastime at both Cleawox and Woahink Lake (pictured).

Jessie M. Honeyman (1852-1948)

After being persuaded by his brother to move to America, Walter and his wife Jessie Honeyman arrived in 1877 from Scotland with two of the six children they would have. Jessie took to her adopted home immediately, and became a zealous advocate for the protection of Oregon's natural resources, and in particular, the scenery along Oregon's highways. Her dream was to keep the roads and byways of Oregon beautiful and scenic. She began her campaign through women's organizations, and eventually founded and became president of the Oregon Roadside Council. Through her efforts, she gained the support of Samuel Boardman, who was the superintendent of state parks. Between the two of them, they were responsible for purchasing and protecting a large number of state lands along the coast. Boardman saw to it that Jessie was recognized for her efforts. On July 12, 1941 Honeyman was renamed—from Camp Woahink—after her.

"A task without a dream is a drudgery . . . a vision without a task is a dream . . . a dream with a task is a victory." — Jessie M. Honeyman

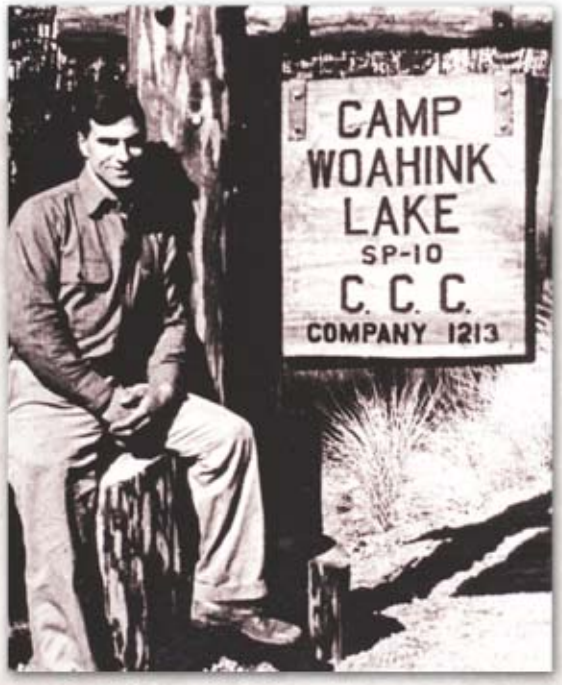
Bats, Butterflies and The Natural World

Park staff help interpret the flora, fauna and natural world of Honeyman. Nature programs run daily at the park's Nature Center *(see map)* during the summer, and are geared to all ages.

Got Group?

Honeyman has a unique solution to your group meeting needs: a yurt meeting hall. This spacious 32-foot yurt holds 50 people and comes with tables and chairs to seat 50, a sink, running water, refrigerator, microwave, electricity, a stove top and lockable doors. Both the conference hall and the nearby restrooms are ADA accessible, and there is parking for 25 cars. The cost is $50 a day and is reservable through Reservations Northwest at 1-800-452-5687.

Inside the conference yurt.



The CCC Builds Honeyman

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was a "New Deal" emergency relief work program begun by the Roosevelt administration in 1933. The jobs it created helped alleviate some of the worst suffering of the Great Depression, and in Oregon, helped build a handful of parks. The 1213th company of the CCC was stationed at Woahink Lake and made Honeyman State Park a reality.

The camp, which was home to about 200 men from 1935-40, was set up similar to a military base, with a recreation hall, hospital, dining hall, shower buildings and a theater. The men constructed buildings, roads, trails and bridges, but perhaps their crowning achievement is the lodge at Cleawox Lake. The building opened in 1939 as a bathhouse, and now serves as the camp store. They also built the caretaker's house, which is now the park office. Both these buildings were constructed of wood and stone hauled from a nearby quarry.

Cleawox Lake Day-Use Area
Camp Store
Cleawox Lake
Lily Lake
Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area
Registration Booth
Hiker/Biker Camp
Overnight Campground
Nature Center
Dune Access
A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
101
OREGON COAST HIGHWAY
Park Office
Group Camp
West Woahink Lake Day-Use Area
Yurt Meeting Hall
Woahink Lake
East Woahink Lake Day-Use Area
CANARY ROAD
N
Hiking & Nature Study Trail
Gazebo
Boat ramp
Swimming
Parking Lots
Restrooms
ADA Restrooms
Fishing
Playground
RV Dump Station
Amphitheater

A Camping Tradition

Honeyman offers hundreds of campsites for visitors: full hookup sites, electrical sites, ADA accessible sites, yurts, a hiker/biker camp and more. Natural and roomy, the campground sits next to the vanishing treasure that is Lily Lake. This freshwater lake is slowly being closed in by grasses and trees. Within 10 years or so, the lake will become a wetland, and soon after that, it will evolve into a meadow.

Families have been coming to this campground for generations and look forward to their annual summer vacation. If you want to make Honeyman part of your family's summer traditions, though, please plan your trip early. Honeyman is a popular park year-round, and attracts over 1.5 million people annually.

During the summer, you can enter the dunes off the South Jetty Road, just north of the park. During Discovery Season only, October 1-April 30, Honeyman campers can enter through H loop in the campground. Vehicles are prohibited on portions of the beach during certain times of the year. Check the Oregon ATV map or ask at the campground information booth about restrictions.

Riding the Dunes

"Off-roaders" are welcome at Honeyman. During Discovery Season (October 1-April 30) campers can get to the dunes from H loop, but access to the dunes is for those camping in H loop only. Day users, and those camping in other loops, can use the access point just off South Jetty Road, north of the park.

Gates to the dunes close at 10:00 p.m. nightly, in conjunction with the park's quiet hours. Please respect other campers and heed this rule. Serious disruptions will be cause for eviction from the park.

Some Things to Know

All motor vehicles (not just all-terrain or similar) must be operated only on roads and in parking areas. Please do not ride through the park. In order to operate an ATV, you must possess a valid driver's license or an ATV driver's permit. If neither of these is in your possession, an adult who meets these requirements must accompany you.

The Dunes National Recreation Area

When you leave the park and enter the dunes, you are leaving state property and entering a United States Forest Service (USFS) site—their rules and regulations apply. For your safety and for the safety of others, please make yourself aware of their rules. Also, vehicles are prohibited on portions of the beach during certain periods of the year. Check your Oregon ATV map, or ask the information booth for more information.

Regional Attractions

Old Town Florence

This historic district of Florence is a charming getaway located on the Siuslaw River. Explore galleries, antique stores, take a walk along the riverfront, or even cruise down the river in a sternwheeler.

Sea Lions

Sea lions live in colonies on the rocky shores of Oregon's coastline from late fall to early spring. One such colony of about 200 resides in caves and on rocks along the coast, just 11 miles north of Florence. Here you can stop at a roadside pullout and see the sea lions playing or relaxing on the rocks, or you can visit the Sea Lion Caves and take an elevator down into the largest sea cave in the world.

Heceta Head Lighthouse

Heceta Head Lighthouse State Scenic Viewpoint, located north of Florence on Highway 101, is one of the most photographed lighthouses on the Oregon coast. Named after Portuguese explorer Bruno de Heceta, this 56-foot-high lighthouse was illuminated in 1894. Its light was rated at 80,000 candle power, and could be seen as far as 20 miles offshore. The original light was replaced by an automated beacon in 1963. Visitors will encounter a picturesque setting with incredible coastal views, and a privately run historic building that once housed the assistant lighthouse keepers and their families. This building is now run as a bed and breakfast. Tours of the lighthouse are offered daily from mid-March through October.

Darlingtonia State Natural Site

Located on Highway 101 between Heceta Head and Florence, Darlingtonia State Natural Site is the only state park property dedicated to preserving a single plant species. The rare carnivorous plant is the only one of its type found in Oregon. The *Darlingtonia californica*, more commonly known as the cobra lily, is a 10-20 inch hollow, hooded plant, with purplish to reddish leaves on top. Insects fly into the plant and become trapped. The plant then "swallows" them down to the bottom where they decompose and nourish the plant. *Darlingtonia* plants are rare in Oregon because they can only grow in wet, boggy soils.