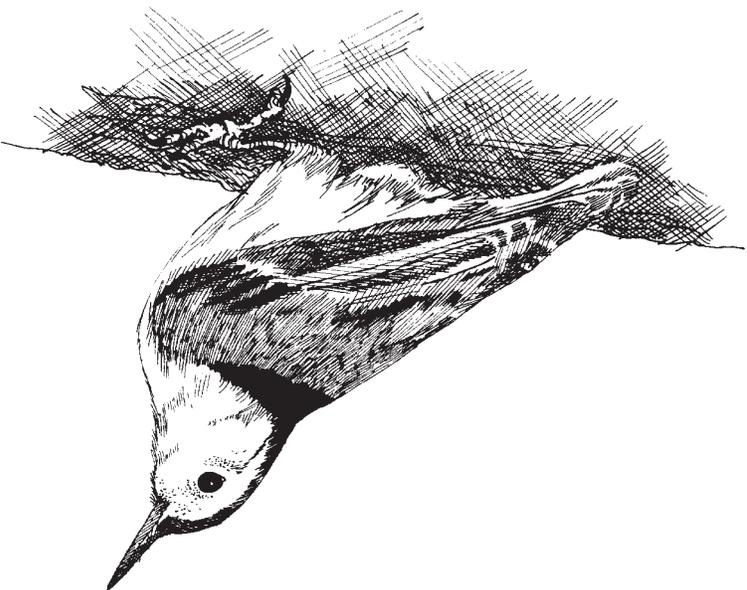




National Park Service
Oregon Caves National Monument

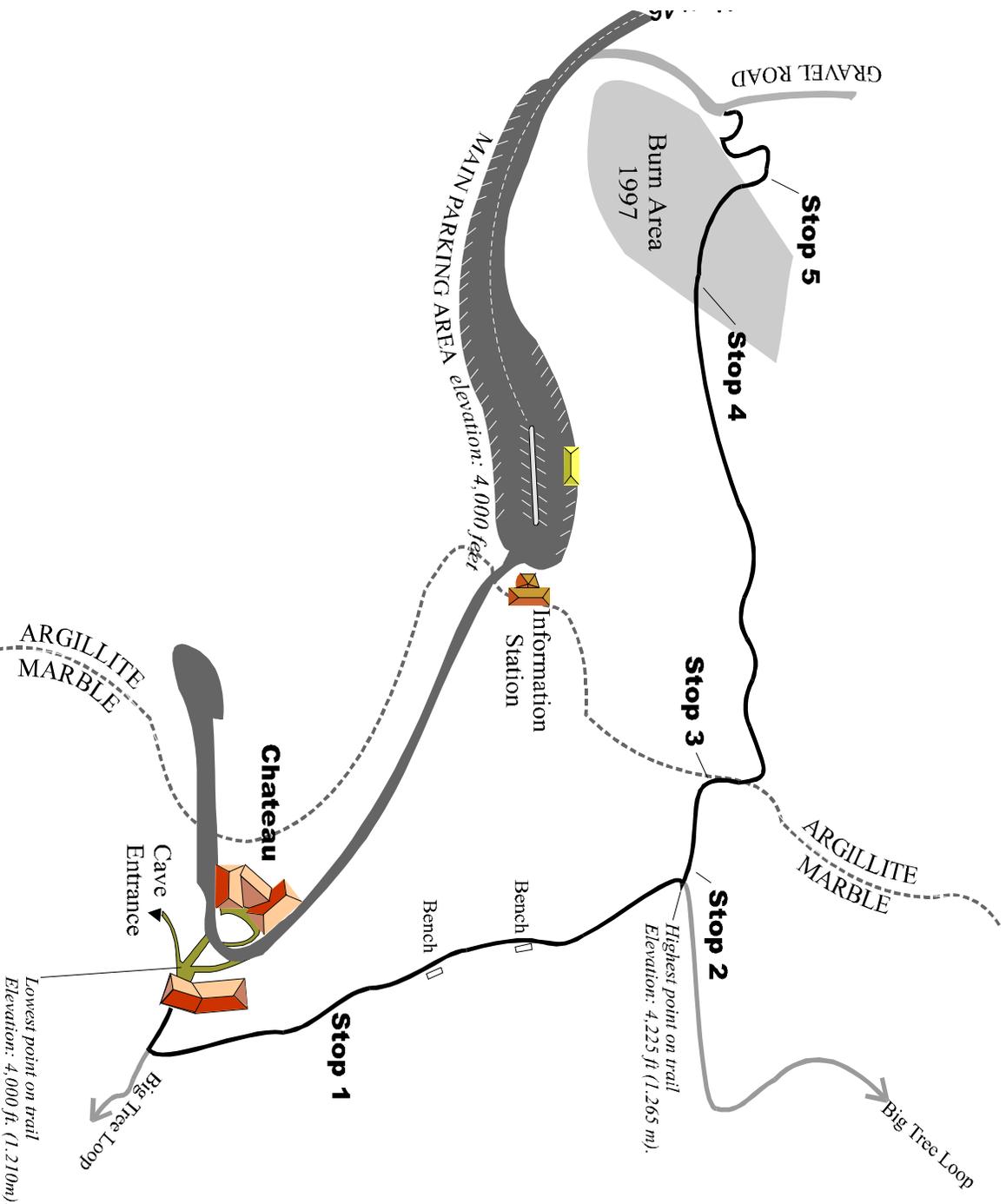
Junior Ranger Program

OLD GROWTH TRAIL



This historic Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) trail climbs gradually among oak trees, over marble outcrops and through a grove of spectacular old growth trees. A nice way to go from the Historic District back to your car in the main parking lot.

Printing of this guide made possible by a grant from the Natural History Association.



Length from Chateau to Hwy 46: ¼ mile

Total distance around loop: ½ mile

Elevation Gain: 225 feet (70 m) above Chateau

Notes: During summer months, this trail has long exposure to the sun and, for this reason, can have higher than average temperatures, especially in the late part of the day. Segments of the trail that pass through old-growth forest may be hazardous on days with high winds which can blow down loose limbs from surrounding trees.

Layout & design:
Roger Brandt

Junior Rangers

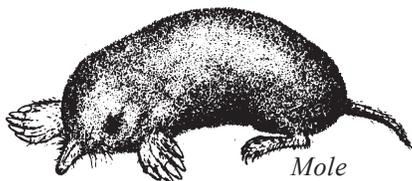
Hike the Old Growth Trail and do the activities on this page. Take the completed activity sheet to the Information Station at Oregon Caves or Illinois Valley Visitor Center in Cave Junction and get a **Old Growth Trail button**.
(You must hike the trail to get the button)



Old Growth Trail Button

TRAIL REGULATIONS

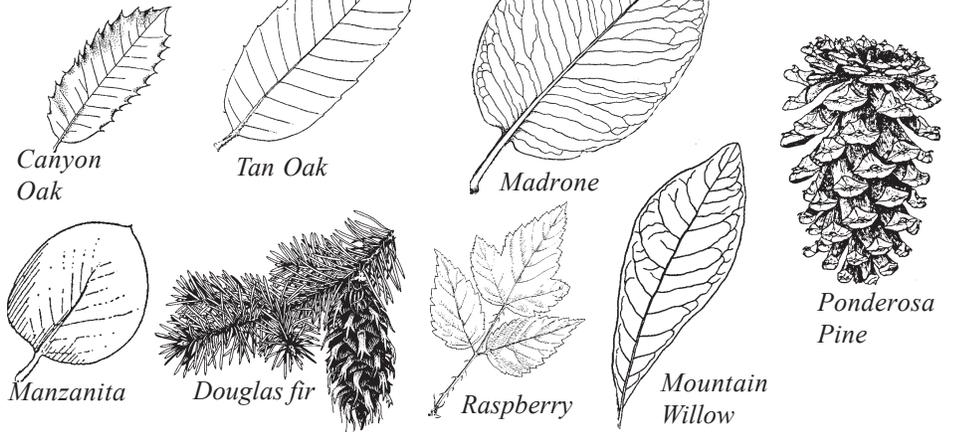
- ❑ **NO COLLECTING** of anything inside the boundaries of Oregon Caves National Monument or any other National Park area.
- ❑ **NO PETS ON TRAILS:** It is OK to take pets for a walk on the gravel road at the lower end of the main parking lot. Pets must be on a leash when outside of vehicle.
- ❑ **DO NOT FEED WILDLIFE** including squirrels, birds and other animals at Oregon Caves National Monument
- ❑ **NO SMOKING ON TRAILS:** Oregon Caves has a high fire hazard throughout most of the spring, summer and fall.



Mole

Old Growth Trail **ACTIVITY PAGE**

PLANT KEY



STOP 1: After walking a short distance up the trail, look at the leaves of the trees next to the trail. Which is the most common?
 A) Canyon Oak
 B) Madrone
 C) Mountain Willow

STOP 2: At the trail junction, there are many small bushes in front of you. Use the key to identify this plant.

Write its name here:

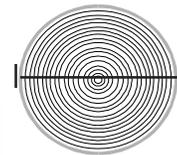
What color is its bark:

STOP 3: Look for a change in vegetation from small trees and shrubs to giant trees. Check the sentence below that gives the best explanation: (hint: the map on the other side gives you a clue)

- ❑ One area gets more rain than the other
- ❑ Plant communities are controlled by a change in geology.
- ❑ Oak trees produce poison that prevents other trees from growing.

STOP 4: (Just inside the burn area).

Measure the diameter of the log a few feet off the trail to the right. Write the diameter here.



Diameter is measured from one side of the trunk to the other.

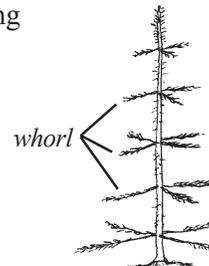
STOP 5: In the clearcut area, find a young fir tree and do the following.

Count the whorls on a young fir tree growing in the clear cut area. Write the number in the box.

Measure how wide the trunk is at the first whorl. Write the number in the box.

Estimate how long will it take for this young tree to grow to a diameter of two feet (24 inches)?

How old will you be when this tree has grown to a diameter of two feet?



About Whorls:
 You can tell the approximate age of a young fir tree by counting the whorls on its trunk. Whorls are rings of 3-4 branches that the tree makes each year as it grows. Hence each whorl represents one year of growth.

