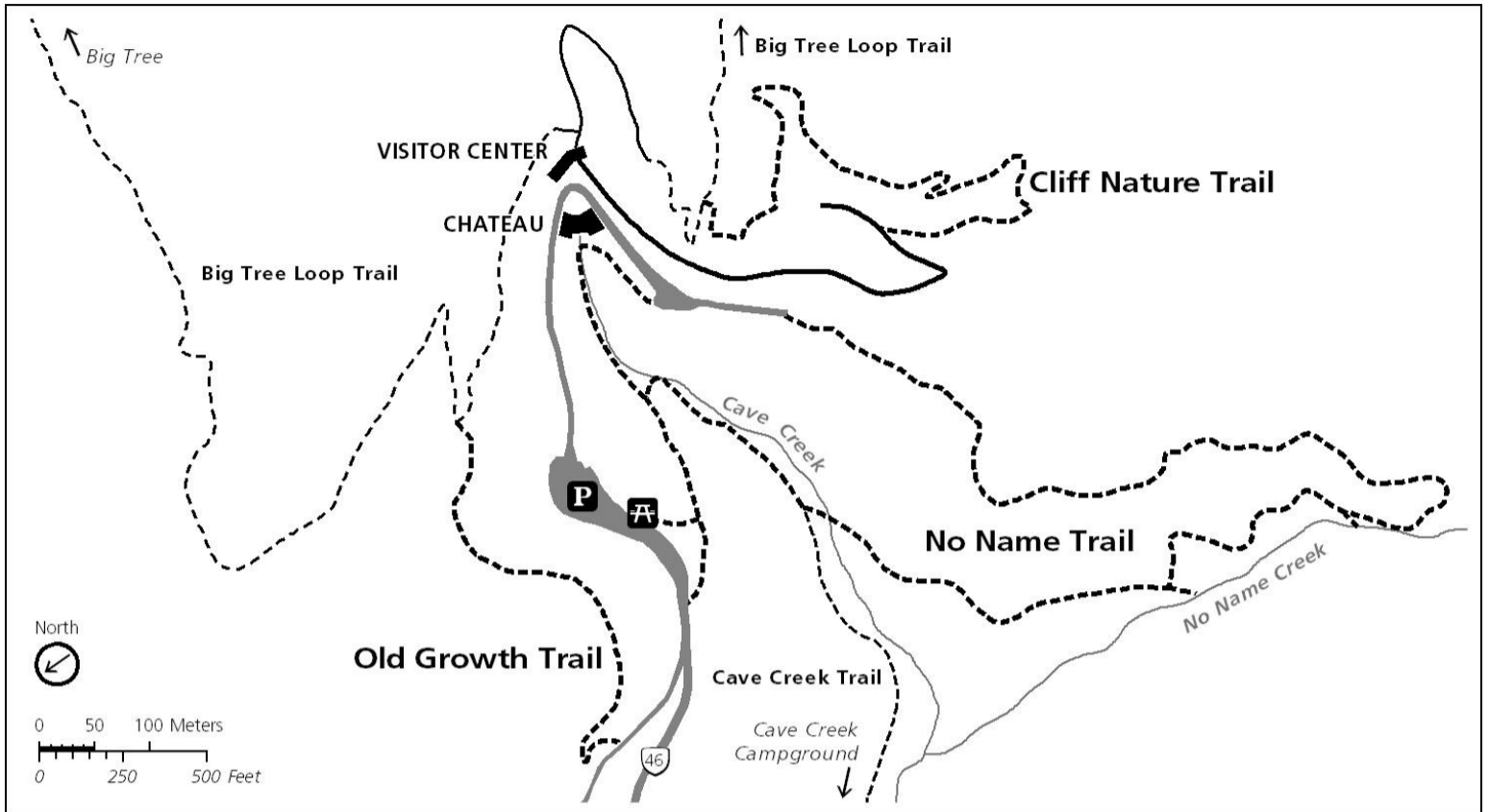




Hiking Trails



Short Hikes

These short hikes take anywhere from 20 minutes to an hour, and offer a scenic alternative to walking between the Visitor Center and main parking lot. Enjoy the monument's ancient forests, discover the streams behind the Chateau lodge, or learn even more about Oregon Caves when you hike above it!

Cliff Nature Trail

1-mile loop (1.6 km)

Moderately strenuous, steep

Enjoy panoramic views of the Illinois Valley. This loop trail takes you up and over the marble cliffs that contain Oregon Caves.

Directions:

Option 1: You can start this hike at the trailhead directly behind the Visitor Center. Bear right.

Option 2: Walk up the paved path to the Cave Exit. Follow signs to the Cliff Nature Trail.

Option 3: Hike this trail after your cave tour!

Time: Allow at least half an hour
Climb: 371 feet (113 m)

No Name Trail

1.3-mile loop (2.1 km)

Moderately strenuous, some steep climbs

Walk alongside No Name Creek and Cave Creek. This loop trail takes you behind and below the Chateau lodge through dense mixed forests and among mossy rock outcrops.

Directions:

Option 1: At the main parking lot, either from the picnic area or the far end toward the highway, follow the trail down into the drainage.

Option 2: At the upper parking lot (Chateau lodge parking), access the trailhead at the far end, past the Chateau lodge and garage.

Option 3: Behind the Chateau lodge, walk down the service road to reach the trail.

Note: Follow dead end trails off of No Name Trail to enjoy small waterfalls on the creek.

Time: Allow 45- 60 minutes
Climb: 268 feet (82 m)

Old Growth Trail

0.5 mile (0.8 km)

Moderate, hilly

Take the scenic route from the Visitor Center and main parking lot. This historic pack trail takes you through several forest types in a short distance.

Directions:

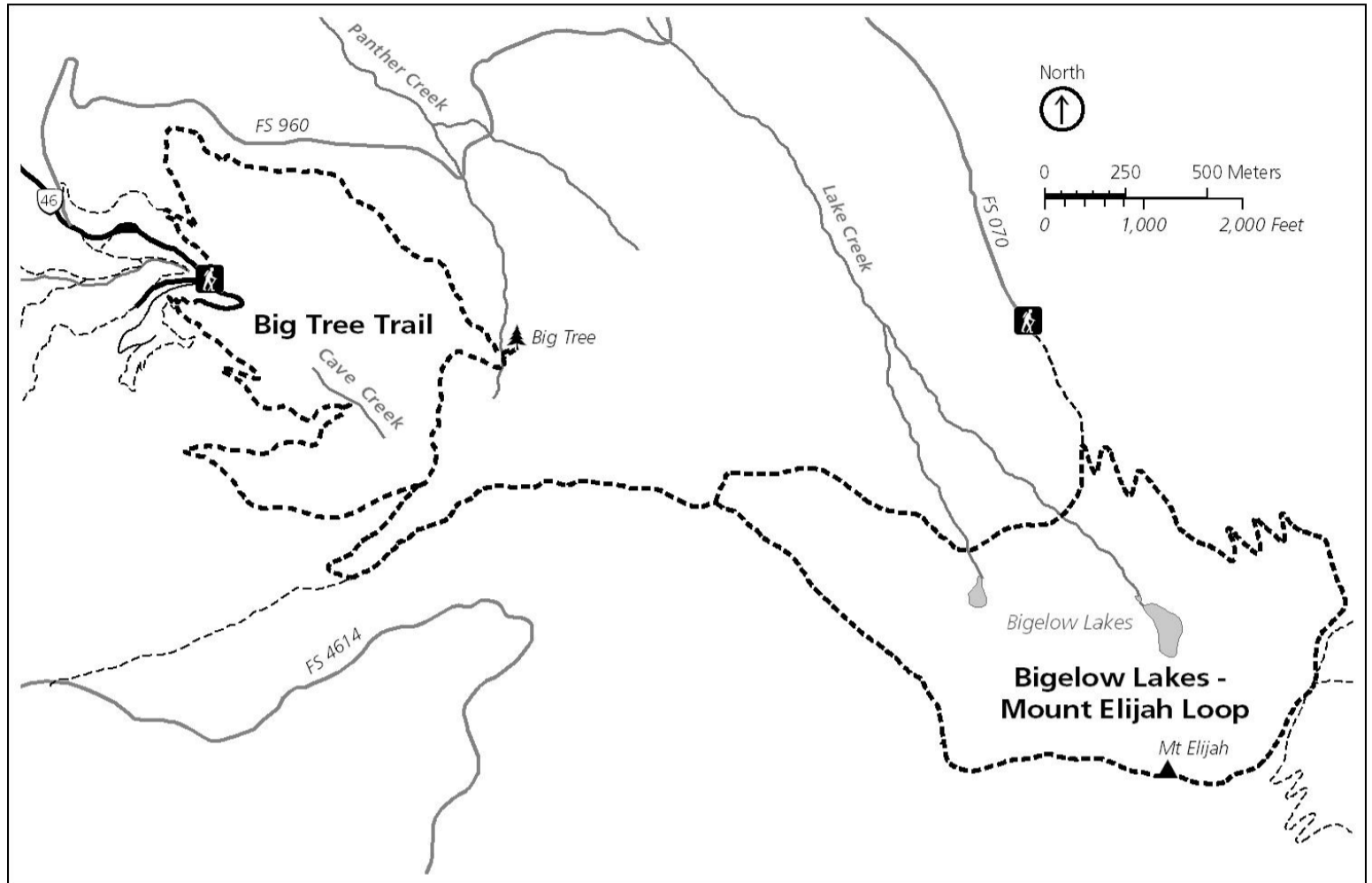
Option 1: You can start this hike at the trailhead directly behind the Visitor Center. Bear left.

Option 2: At the main parking lot, walk to the far end toward the highway and continue up the Forest Service road. Access the trailhead on the right side of the road.

Time: Allow 20- 30 minutes
Climb: 200 feet (60 m)

Day Hikes

Devote a day to exploring the forested mountain landscapes of the Klamath-Siskiyou. Miles of hiking trails meander through Oregon Caves National Monument and the surrounding Rogue River- Siskiyou National Forest. Pack plenty of water, lunch or snack, a map and first aid kit, and *enjoy!*



Big Tree Trail

3.3-mile loop (5.3 km)

Strenuous, steep climbs and switchbacks

Climb through ancient forests, Port Orford cedar groves, and meadows to the largest-diameter Douglas fir tree known to exist in Oregon.

Note: Expect snow to persist on the meadows and the higher elevation, north-facing slopes into mid- to- late spring.

Directions:

Start this hike at the trailhead directly behind the Visitor Center. This loop trail will take you to the Big Tree from either direction, but bear left to take the more direct route to Big Tree, 1.2 miles (1.9 km).

Time: Allow 2- 3 hours
Climb: 1,125 feet (343 m)

Bigelow Lakes – Mount Elijah Loop

9.2-mile loop (14.8 km)

4.0 miles to Mt. Elijah (6.4 km)

Very strenuous, uphill climb to Mount Elijah, elevation 6,390 feet (1,948 m)

Enjoy a day of mountain peaks and meadows. This loop trail takes you around the lily pad-covered Bigelow Lakes and to the top of Mount Elijah, where you can view Mount Shasta on a clear day.

Directions:

Option 1: Access this hike from the Big Tree Trail. Halfway around the Big Tree loop, follow the trail that continues to the top of the ridge.

Option 2: High clearance vehicle recommended if you want to shorten this hike by starting it at an alternative trailhead. Access FS 960 at the end of the main parking area. Follow FS 960 to FS 070 and bear right, then bear right again shortly after to remain on FS 070 until the road ends at a trailhead. Note: Some FS roads lack signs.

Time: Allow 4- 6 hours
Climb: 2,390 feet (728 m)

Cave Creek Trail

1.5 miles to Cave Creek Campground (2.4 km)

3.0-mile round trip (4.8 km)

Strenuous, steep

Follow Cave Creek down the mountain. This steep, one-way hike takes you to Cave Creek Campground.

Note: By highway, Cave Creek Campground is 3.5 miles (5.6 km) from Oregon Caves. You may want to arrange a ride to pick you up at the campground. Otherwise, plan for a steep climb to return to the monument.

Directions:

Access this hike from the No Name Trail (see map on other side of handout).

Time: Allow 2- 3 hours round trip
Descent: 1,000 feet (305 m)