

WILLIAM O DOUGLAS HERITAGE TRAIL SEGMENTS

HIKE NUMBER 1 YAKIMA CITY HIKE TO THE GREENWAY



This hike is the first dedicated segment of the William O Douglas Heritage Trail, It begins at Justice Douglas' High School alma mater which is located on South 6th Avenue. This is an urban hike along about 2 miles of designated paths and city streets following the route he walked as a young boy to overcome his weakness. The destination for this hike is the historic railroad bridge that crosses the Naches River, which he used to reach Selah Ridge to climb to the top. This hike can be done with a car shuttle, leaving an extra car at each end or doubling the distance to 4 miles.

Directions from highway I-82: Take the Yakima Avenue exit to enter Yakima. Travel west on Yakima to 7th Avenue and turn left. Go 2 blocks south on 7th Avenue and Davis High School is on your left.

Starting from Justice Douglas' statue at Davis High School go north on the west side of 7th Avenue about 3 blocks to Yakima Avenue. Cross to the north side and go right two blocks (east) to 5th Avenue. Turn left to go north on 5th Avenue for two blocks to Martin Luther King Boulevard. William O Douglas lived in his boyhood home at 111 North Moxee Avenue (now known as 5th Avenue) in North Yakima. The banner on the large building on the east side of the street indicates where his home was located. Staying on the left (west) side of 5th Avenue, the trail goes about a half mile to the round-about at Fruitvale Boulevard. Crossing Fruitvale, it continues north on the west side of 5th Avenue to "I" street where it turns left to go one block to 6th Avenue. The trail then heads north on 6th Avenue along the paved William O Douglas pathway. The destination for this portion of the trail is the historic old railroad bridge over the Naches River.

HIKE NUMBER 2 MYRON LAKE GREENWAY TRAILHEAD TO THE RAILROAD BRIDGE



This is a pleasant (2.2 miles one way) urban hike along the gently undulating and popular paved Yakima Greenway, through the Naches River riparian habitat. There is abundant wildlife and even plenty of interesting people watching.

To reach the trailhead from Davis High School, go north on 7th Avenue to Yakima Avenue, turn right and go 2 blocks to 5th Avenue. Go north on 5th Avenue about .5 miles to the roundabout at Fruitvale Boulevard. Go around the round-about to head West on Fruitvale for about .7 miles until you see the Comfort Suites motel sign. Turn right onto the narrow lane following the Yakima Greenway sign to the parking area.

From the trailhead the path follows the lake edge until it meets the section which parallels HWY 12. At about 1.5 miles, the pathway crosses HWY 12 on the North 16th Avenue Bridge to a Greenway rest area. From this rest area on a ledge above the Naches River, the view of the river and surrounding plant and wildlife provides an interesting respite. From here the pathway follows the colorful and active Naches River riparian area while paralleling the highway for another .7 miles. The historic Naches River Bridge at the destination was Justice Douglas' route for crossing to climb the Selah Ridge for his frequent workout.

HIKE NUMBER 3 COWICHE CANYON EAST TO WEIKEL



The Cowiche Canyon East to Weikel trailhead hike is about 3 miles of level hiking through the historic Cowiche Creek Canyon, mostly on an old railroad bed. (Hikers can also park a second car at Weikel.)

To reach the trailhead from Davis High School: Travel north on 7th Avenue past Yakima Avenue where Summitview Avenue begins. Follow Summitview for about 2 miles going west and turn right onto 40th Avenue. In less than a mile, turn left onto Powerhouse Road and when you reach Cowiche Canyon Road in about a mile, turn left and drive about 2 miles to the west end of Cowiche Canyon Road and the east Canyon trailhead.

This hike follows the Cowiche Creek through Cowiche Canyon along an old railroad bed from the parking area at the east end of Cowiche Canyon Road to the Weikel trailhead near Summitview Avenue. The trail crosses the creek 9 times on scenic bridges as it winds its way through the canyon. The south walls of the canyon are Columbia Basalt, while the north walls are Columbia Basalt topped by the more convoluted forms of Tieton Andesite. At the abutments for the demolished trestle #10 the trail leaves the railroad bed and follows the old county roadway through the dense riparian vegetation alongside the creek. Where the trail returns to the railroad bed is the junction with the Uplands Trail, which climbs the south hillside and then crosses the Cowiche Canyon Uplands to the parking area on Scenic Drive Extension. Just beyond bridge #8 is a junction with the Winery Trail, which climbs the north hillside to the Tasting Room of Yakima & the Wilridge Vineyard, as well as the NHV Tasting Room.

HIKE NUMBER 4 ROCKY TOP LOOP with access to Cowiche Mountain summit.



The Rocky Top Loop hike is a little more than 2 miles with about 900 feet of mostly steady climbing, toward the summit of Cowiche Mountain.

To reach the trailhead from Davis High School: on South 7th Avenue, travel North past Walnut St where 7th Avenue curves left into Summitview Avenue heading west. Travel about 8.4 miles on Summitview Avenue to Rocky Top Road where you turn left. Drive past Anderson Gravel about .3 miles to the large gravel parking area, surrounded by large boulders.

The hike is special primarily because of the striking scenic vistas of the vast arid shrub-steppe portion of Eastern Washington it provides. This hike begins at the Rocky Top trailhead kiosk, but rather than following the most visible gravel path, this trail starts on the gravel driveway at the southeast end of the parking area and follows the edge of an old irrigation canal to the South beside an orchard. The trail signs mark a scenic trail up the ridgeline offering spectacular territorial views of the surrounding area. The ridge trail, which is a portion of the William O Douglas Heritage Trail, intersects with the jeep road which is the main access trail from Rocky Top at a gate in an old barbed wire fence. Hikers can choose either to continue to the summit, or follow the jeep road main access trail back to the east and the Rocky Top trailhead and parking area.

HIKE NUMBER 5 SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH TO COWICHE MOUNTAIN SUMMIT



To reach the trailhead from Davis High School:

Travel north on 7th Avenue to Yakima Avenue, where it curves gently west to become Summitview Avenue. Travel west on Summitview Ave about 12 miles where you will see Cowiche Mill Road on your left. Travel West on Cowiche Mill Road about 3 miles until you see your destination the Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot on your left.

Nearly 3 miles with 1100 feet gain to the summit of Cowiche Mountain

From the Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot, follow the entry trail to the Snow Mountain Ranch kiosk. From here take the west leg of the Cowiche Mountain Loop Trail as it crosses the floodplain pasture and enters a broad ravine and a junction with both the Balanced Rock Trail and the Riparian Trail-West. Follow the trail up the ravine, eventually curving east and climbing out of the ravine to the bench lands above and a junction with the Wildflower Trail. The trail then heads south again past an old corral, climbing a broad ridge before curving east and traversing to a shallow saddle at the top of the ridge and then on to the summit of Cowiche Mountain (elevation 2,970') and a junction with both the east leg of the Cowiche Mountain Loop Trail and the trail coming up the east ridge of Cowiche Mountain from the Rocky Top Parking area.

HIKE NUMBER 6 COWICHE MILL ROAD TO BOX SPRING CANYON



To reach the trailhead from Davis High School:

Travel north on 7th Avenue to Yakima Avenue, where it curves gently west to become Summitview Avenue. Travel west on Summitview Ave about 12 miles until you see Cowiche Mill Road on your left. Travel west on Cowiche Mill Road about 3 miles until you see Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot on your left. Just beyond the Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot on your left you will see a WDFW parking area (Discover Pass required) near the intersection of Cowiche Mill Road and Sunset Road.

This hike is nearly 5 miles with 900 feet elevation gain following an old jeep road to Box Spring Canyon.

This trail travels through shrub steppe terrain with an elevation gain of about 900 feet. From the WDFW parking area walk over to the elk fence paralleling Sunset Road and follow the fence about .2 miles north to the old jeep road at the gate where Sunset Road makes a sharp turn to the east. Follow this road uphill in a northerly direction until you reach the flats above Cowiche Creek. From here, follow the road north (left) for about 1.5 miles and when it passes through a gate in the east-west elk fence walk west alongside the fence, climbing for about .5 miles until you come to the corner & then follow the fence north (right) a short ways to pick up the jeep road as it emerges through another gate. Follow the road west (left) about .5 miles as it climbs to 2756 feet and then levels out. Here watch for the junction with another old jeep road heading southeast (sharply left). Follow this road about .3 miles to Box Spring and the picturesque head of Box Spring Canyon. The expansive views of the open shrub-steppe country above the South Fork of Cowiche Creek and the whole Yakima Valley are striking.