

Tamanawas Falls

(Modified from *The Curious Gorge*)

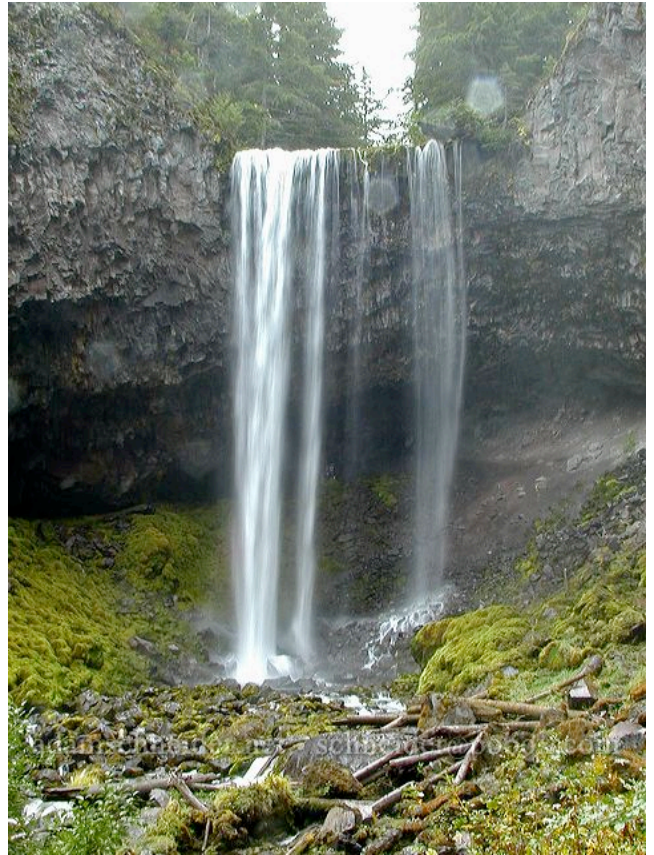
35 min drive from Hood River, each way.

Easy/Moderate, 2.5 miles each way

A wonderful 2.5 mile trail leads to a magnificent 125 foot waterfall. This is a Hood River favorite. This moderate trail climbs gradually, hugging the bank of beautiful Cold Spring Creek for much of its length. At the falls a scramble path leads across a rocky slope to a large dry alcove behind the cascade - quite enchanting!

This trail has a well-deserved reputation for beauty and scenery. To avoid crowds on summer days and weekends plan a hike in the early morning or near sunset. Also, a hike in the rain to the dry alcove is a novel experience. Some lesser known waterfall trails of similar length and beauty are Dry Creek Falls and Falls Creek Falls – try these for more solitude.

DRIVING FROM HR: At the Hwy 35 4-way stop go south on Hwy 35 for about 22 miles to the Polallie Trailhead/Picnic Area (parking on east side of Hwy). (N.B. There is currently no good access from the parking area just before Sherwood Campground because the footbridge across the East Fork of the Hood River has been washed out.)



HIKE: From the parking area, cross Hwy 35 to the trailhead (on the west side). The hike can be done as a loop, the inbound half of which parallels the Hwy (and the East Fork of the Hood River) for 1.1 miles before crossing Cold Spring Creek and heading west along the Creek (there's a second creek crossing about 0.15 miles up the creek). The trail hugs the creek and is lovely in its own right. It's about 1.3 miles to the Falls -- a bit before the falls take the recently constructed lower trail that crosses an area of heavy rockfall (that took out two bridges and a section of the trail some years ago). At the falls, traverse the wet rocky slope to get to the alcove behind the falls.

Return either the way you came, or soon after re-crossing the rock fall, take the uphill Elk Creek Meadows Trail, leaving the creek and traversing about 1.3 miles on a more inland route back to Hwy 35.

Bill's notes: This is a popular falls, but since it's further away from Portland than the falls in the Western Gorge, it's much less crowded. Also, since it is to the east of Mt Hood, the area is generally drier than the areas around the Gorge Falls. If you have time, you might check out Parkdale, and the "Fruit-Loop" drive as part of the trip.