



Hanna Flats Cedar Grove Interpretive Trail

A STAND UNBOWED



Priest Lake Ranger District

Hanna Flats Cedar Grove Interpretive Trail

Among these giant trees lies a story of survival. Etched deeply here are evidences of the struggle that left Hanna Flats...

A Stand Unbowed

#1 These same trees that tower over you also swayed over Jim Hanna's family as they searched for a homesite in the spring of 1921. The grove had no open space for cattle and the ground was too moist and spongy to support a cabin, so they moved on. The family came upon an abandoned homestead 9 miles northwest of here, a place carved out of the wild by a man named Gump. Gump had moved that winter so his children could be near a school. When he returned in the spring, the Hannas had already settled into his home, so Gump simply moved on.

#2 In the first years that the Hanna's lived here, the area changed little from the early explorer's descriptions. The western white pine grew in abundance on the hillsides while the flats were covered with western red cedar and western hemlock.

Unlike white pine, cedar and hemlock were considered trash by the early loggers...not even worth cutting down, much less hauling out. Cutting timber was a difficult job, so the early loggers took only the best trees near log-floating creeks, they didn't give a second thought to places like Hanna Flats.

#3 This is the tree that the first loggers were after, the western white pine...massive, straight trunks of knotless lumber.

In the mid-twenties, about the time Hanna received his homestead deed, loggers had moved this far north and had begun cutting as many of the giant trees as they could float to the mills at Priest River. The logging activity was not to pass without influencing the future of Hanna Flats.

#4 The forest that once protected this cedar grove from wind is now gone. Blow-downs now bring an early demise to trees which may have lived for centuries before succumbing to disease. As these old ones die the new forest begins. Eventually the forest succession will reach its climax with a cedar and hemlock stand similar to Hanna Flats.

If you like, take a stroll up the viewpoint trail which leaves the main trail just ahead. You'll have a beautiful view of the 16 acre grove waving 100 feet above the neighboring trees.

#5 It was July 11, 1926, the rising sun brought another hot, dry day. When clouds began to gather, folks hoped to have an end to the drought. Lightning flashed, hopes were crushed, the parched forest and the logging slash roared into flame. Firefighters watched helplessly as the district engulfed 125 square miles of forest land. When the smoke cleared in mid-August, Hanna Flats emerged unscathed. The moist soil and lack of underbrush forced the fire to seek an easier route along the dry, pine-covered hillsides.

Loggers salvaged what trees they could, but the depression dealt them a final blow, the mills closed and logging came to a standstill.

#6 The Depression ended and our nation slowly regained its economic feet. When hemlock were in demand. The loggers of the forties now looked with interest at what loggers of the twenties had disdained. Fortunately, the Forest Service saw beyond lumber to the recreational and scientific values of virgin stands.

In 1955, Hanna Flats Cedar Grove was preserved as a natural area for future generations to enjoy.

#7 Many years and many modifying forces have left Hanna Flats Grove a survivor. Homesteading, logging, wind and fire – Hanna Flats has withstood them all and has remained a stand unbowed.

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Hanna Flats. We invite you to come again to witness the continuing survival of these giant trees

These are some of the trees, shrubs, and plants found in and around the Hanna Flats Cedar Grove.

Trees

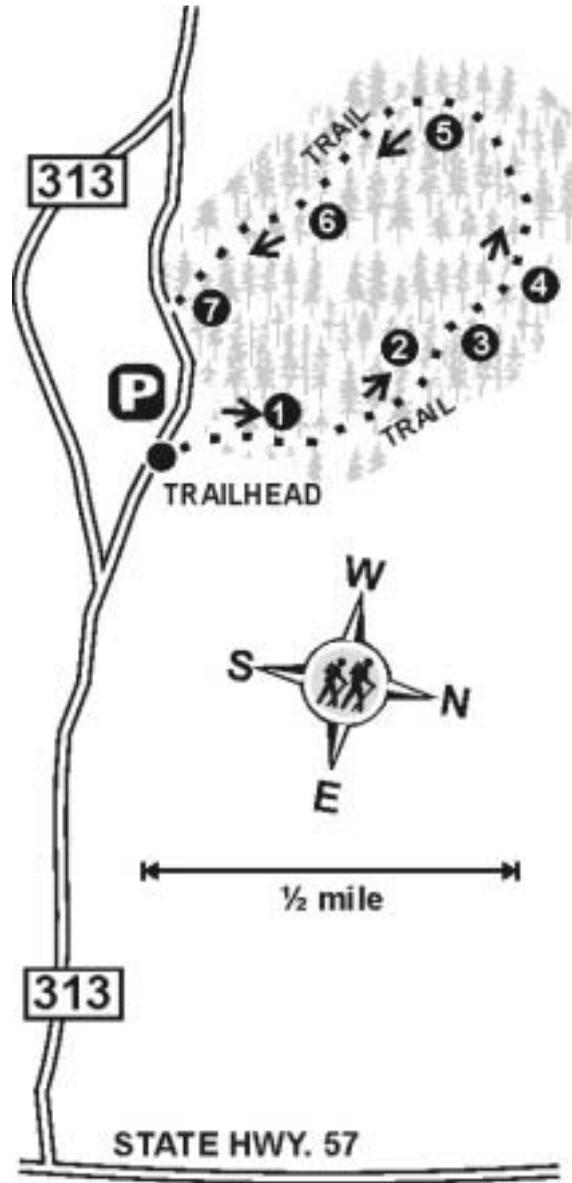
Western red cedar
Western white pine
Grand fir
Western hemlock
Western larch
Engelmann spruce
Black cottonwood
Casara

Shrubs

Snowberry
Serviceberry
Redberry elder
Blueberry elder
Red osier dogwood
Devilsclub
Wild rose
Thimbleberry
Black Mtn. Huckleberry
Mountain lover

Plants

Queens cup
Bullthistle
Cinquifol
Salsify
Yarrow
Goldenrod



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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