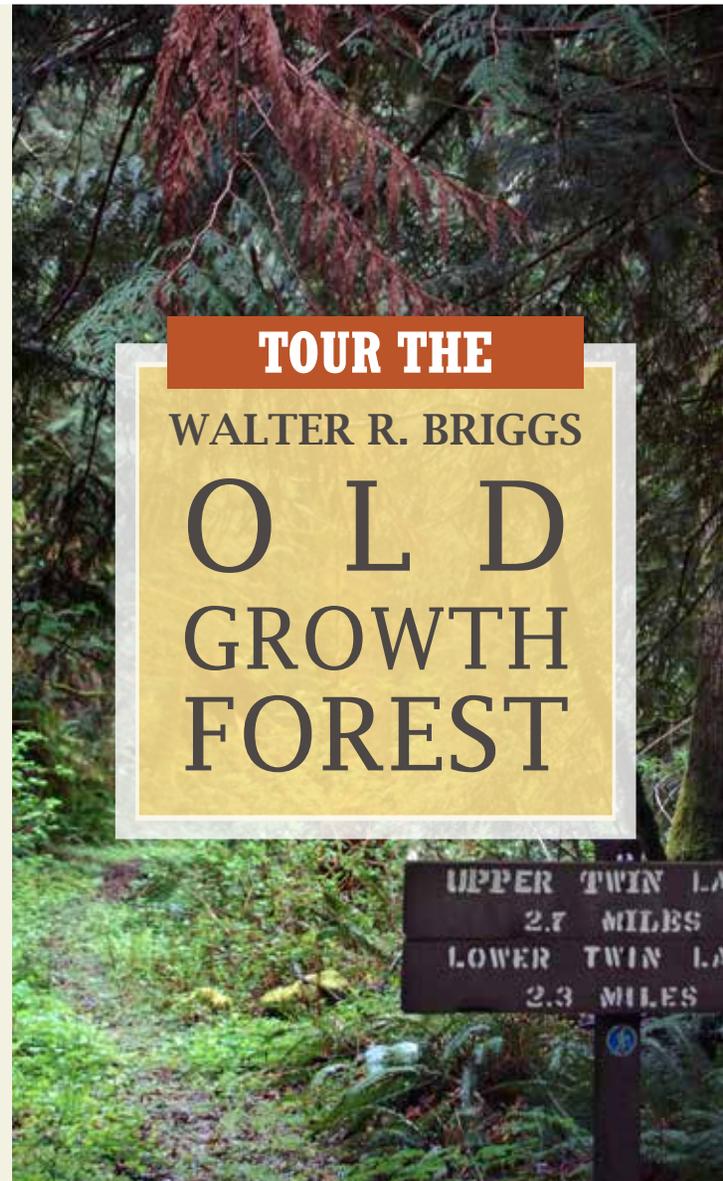
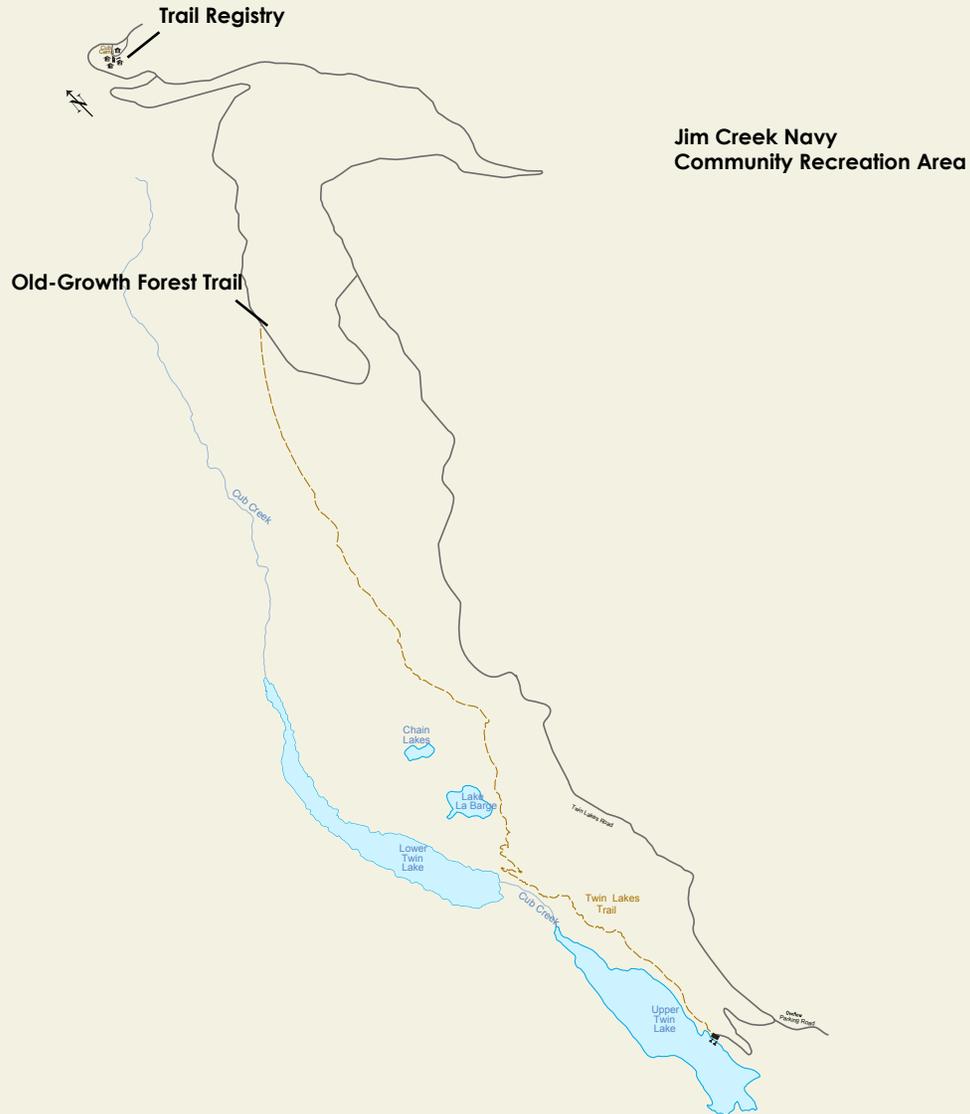




Where is the Old-Growth Forest Trail?

The Old-Growth Forest Trail (Twin Lakes Trail) is located along Twin Lakes, which runs from Upper to Lower Twin Lakes. All hikers, please sign in at Trail Registry near trail head.



Secrets of the Old-Growth Forest

The old-growth forest can be found in a narrow strip of land from the northern tip of Alaska to San Francisco, CA. Although this area is home to monstrous Redwoods and Sitka Spruce, up to 300 ft. high and 10 ft. wide, they flourished on some of the worst soils and weather conditions known to man. The old-growth forests along the coast contain the largest examples of many species as well as the largest, and quite possibly the most diverse, plant and invertebrate life. Unfortunately, all but 4% of the old-growth forest has been logged since the 1800's.

Jim Creek's Old-Growth Forest

In 1950, Scott Paper Co. received acquisition documents which allowed them to log all merchantable timber on Navy land. In layman terms, the Navy bought the land, not the trees, where the present Radio Station stands. By 1954, all of the old-growth timber had been cut on the 4,700 acres, except the 225 acres surrounding the Twin Lakes and Cub Creek area. In 1984, Navy forester Walter R. Briggs began a 9-year preservation effort in attempt to secure the sacred old-growth forest. The main focus of his efforts was with a bill that created the Legacy Resource Management Program, which gave the Department of Defense substantial natural and cultural resources funding. The Legacy Resource Program rewarded his efforts by allotting \$900,000 towards the purchase of the trees. The remaining \$2.1 million was secured through legislation in late December of 1993. Jim Creek Naval Radio Station now has the only remaining low-elevation old-growth Sitka Spruce forest in the northern Puget Trough.



Sitka Spruce

of their presence and refrain from interfering with them in any way. Jim Creek is also home to the threatened Marbled Murrelet. The forest also contains Bald Eagles, Barred Owls, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Ruffed and Blue Grouse, and Red-Winged Blackbirds.



Marbled Murrelet

Vegetation

This national treasure is home to many 260-ft. high Sitka Spruce, Western Hemlock, Douglas Fir, Western Red Cedar, and Vine Maple trees. Some trees are 1,500-1,700 years old. Notice the natural spacing of the trees; this is caused by the fight for sunlight.

Each type of tree can be differentiated by observing the tree's leaves, needles, and cones. A tree's lumps, growths, and abnormal swelling, caused by wild cell division in addition to other characteristics, make them as individual as a person's thumbprint.

Other abundant flora in the area includes lichen, fungus, algae, and a variety of mosses.

Wildlife

There is an abundance of wildlife at Jim Creek including deer, beaver, raccoons, black bear, cougars, and coyotes. While these animals are exciting, if you are fortunate enough to see them in their natural habitat, some of them can be extremely dangerous. We ask that visitors be aware

Water

This old-growth forest is a watershed for the Twin Lakes area and Lake Labarge. This water supply is vital to the Naval Station as well as the local wildlife. Water is necessary for life. It acts as a solvent, modifies extreme temperatures, and dissolves various chemical substances, facilitating life processes in living creatures. Water is contained in all trees tissues. Young leaves and root tips are up to as much as 90% water.

Life Cycle of the Forest

The old-growth forest "recycles" itself. Strong winds cause trees with hollow and unprotected roots to fall. These fallen trees act as bridges for animals such as mice and squirrels. Then, thick moss builds up to help retain moisture and fungi, and bacteria start secreting wood-digesting chemicals. This fermenting odor attracts ants and other guests. Snaged or drowned logs provide habitat for fish and increase nutrients in the water. Standing dead trees provide homes for birds and other mammals. The forest is forever regenerating itself.



Twin Lakes