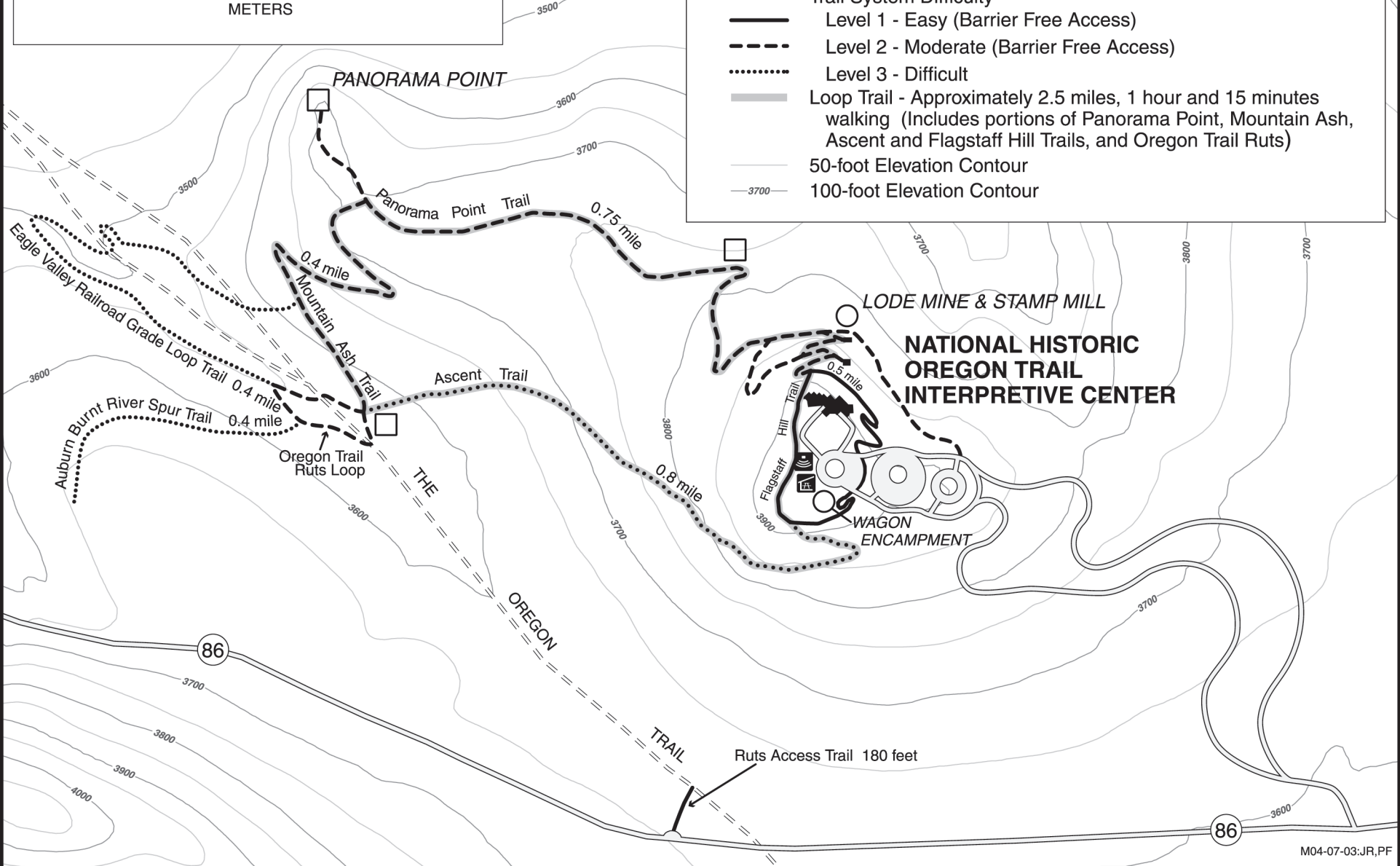


- Amphitheater
- Picnic Shelter
- Living History Exhibit
- Shade Shelter & Bench
- The Oregon Trail
- Trail System Difficulty**
- Level 1 - Easy (Barrier Free Access)
- Level 2 - Moderate (Barrier Free Access)
- Level 3 - Difficult
- Loop Trail - Approximately 2.5 miles, 1 hour and 15 minutes walking (Includes portions of Panorama Point, Mountain Ash, Ascent and Flagstaff Hill Trails, and Oregon Trail Ruts)
- 50-foot Elevation Contour
- 100-foot Elevation Contour



Interpretive Trails at Flagstaff Hill

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center features a 4.2 mile trail system that leads visitors to a series of viewpoints and historic sites

Level 1 and **Level 2** trails are paved and barrier free, and designed at grades no greater than 5%.

The total trail system covers elevation changes of 372 feet. The top of the hill is over 3,900 feet in elevation, and summer temperatures may exceed 100 degrees. There are no drinking fountains or restrooms along the trail, however there are shade shelters and benches. Smoking is not permitted on trails due to potential fire danger. Trails are not cleared of snow in winter, but otherwise are open year round.

Visitors should plan at least 1 hour and 15 minutes to hike the entire trail system and return to the parking lot.

Entrance gates close at 6:00 pm from mid-April to mid-October, and at 4:00 pm mid-October through mid-April.

Features visible from the interpretive trails include:

- remnants of the historic Flagstaff Mine, Lode Mine Exhibit & gold panning demonstration area
- panoramic views of the Blue Mountains and Wallowa Mountains
- the historic route of the Oregon Trail across Virtue Flat and Baker Valley

The Panorama Point Trail and Ascent Trail both lead to the ruts of the Oregon Trail. Trail ruts are fragile – *please take care not to erode rut traces.*

In 1843 emigrants sent a wagon and team ahead to break down the sagebrush on Virtue Flat. Over time the dusty earth on the flat gained the distinct imprint of several sets of parallel ruts – the traces of thousands of wagon wheels and animal hooves carrying the goods of the pioneers to the Pacific Northwest. Oregon Trail ruts resemble a swale of slightly packed earth, rather than the more familiar set of parallel tracks typically made by automobiles.

Along the Trail Ruts Loop at the base of the hill, you will also see a small granite marker erected by Ezra Meeker in 1906. Meeker, a pioneer of 1853, retraced the Oregon Trail from west to east and erected markers throughout the route of the Trail. He inaugurated preservation efforts and championed the Oregon Trail until his death at age 98 in 1928. BLM carsonite markers and concrete obelisks are also present; part of a program throughout the American West to preserve and mark historic trails and wagon roads.

For those short on time, the Ruts Access trail starting from Highway 86 offers a quick and easy way to view the ruts.

A traffic pullout 0.6 miles west of the Interpretive Center entrance has an information kiosk about backward migration on the Oregon Trail during the gold rush era, as well as information on how to identify and preserve historic ruts.

A 180-foot long, level, surfaced trail takes visitors to an observation point adjacent to the ruts, and is particularly useful for visitors with physical limitations or time limitations that may prevent them from taking the longer interpretive trails.

