



## OREGON FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TOUR

**TOUR:**

Thursday, March 19, 2026- 8:30 AM  
Hampton Inn Medford  
1122 Morrow Rd  
Medford, OR 97504

**MEETING:**

Friday March 20, 2026- 8:00 AM  
Roxie Ann Grange  
1850 Spring St  
Medford, OR 97504

### **The Resilient Rogue:**

**How partnerships are building fire-adapted, climate-resilient landscapes in Southern Oregon**

**Thursday March 19, 2026**

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/VvDSMXbaoZY9Q9AV9>

- 8:00 AM Meet in the lobby at Hampton Inn (8:30am departure)  
Introduction by Mathew Vargas, District Wildlife Biologist
- 8:50 AM Blue Heron Park: Visit to the heart of the 2020 Almeda Fire impact zone to introduce Western Oregon's 'dry forest' systems and discuss how climate change is reshaping Rogue Basin landscapes. This stop highlights the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy, along with wetland restoration and fish-passage projects that strengthen climate resilience for Rogue Basin fish.
- Kerry Metlen, PhD., Senior Forest Scientist, TNC Oregon Chapter; Terry Fairbanks, Executive Director, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- 9:40 AM Wagner Creek, Ohana Coffee Co. parking lot: Tour of a nine-year-old riparian restoration project that later burned in the Almeda Fire. The site provides a clear comparison of how native vegetation vs. invasive species influenced fire behavior and post-fire recovery—offering a powerful, on-the-ground look at restoration outcomes.
- Katelyn Detweiler, Senior Restoration Project Manager, The Freshwater Trust
- 11:00 AM Denman Wildlife Area: An opportunity to see how prescribed burning has been effectively utilized on ODFW lands in the past while also observing the greater geographic treatment needs and increased frequency required to achieve a fire-resilient landscape.
- Herb Johnson, OR Dept of Forestry, Firewise Coordinator Jackson County
  - Tawny Slaven, Denman Wildlife Area Manager
- 12:00 PM Lunch at Rogue Watershed District Office:
- Presentation by Brian Barr (Executive Director, Rogue River Watershed Council) on riparian restoration strategies and building fire resiliency through floodplain reconnection.

- 1:20 PM Rogue River Preserve: We'll hear about some of the restoration work to build a more fire resilient landscape and increased wildlife connectivity through fence removals, thinning, and invasive species treatments (volunteer + contracted). Additionally, we'll learn about some of the ongoing MOTUS work related to SWAP species (i.e. bats).
- Steve Wise, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Representative
  - Ryan Battleson, ODFW SW Regional Access & Habitat Coordinator
  - Jade Keehn, ODFW Conservation Biologist, Wildlife Diversity Program SW Region
- 2:00 PM Lower Table Rocks: An opportunity to highlight the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network partnership and to discuss the positive impacts of restoration treatments on oak-associated SWAP species.
- Aubrey May (The Nature Conservancy)—final speaker list TBD
- 3:15 PM Collins Demonstration Forest: Examples of a variety of treatments to achieve a fire-resilient landscape.
- Max Bennett, Oregon State University
  - Ryan Battleson, ODFW Rogue Habitat Biologist
- 4:15 PM End of Tour/ Return to Hampton Inn Medford by 4:45 pm

Search along the route...

Gas

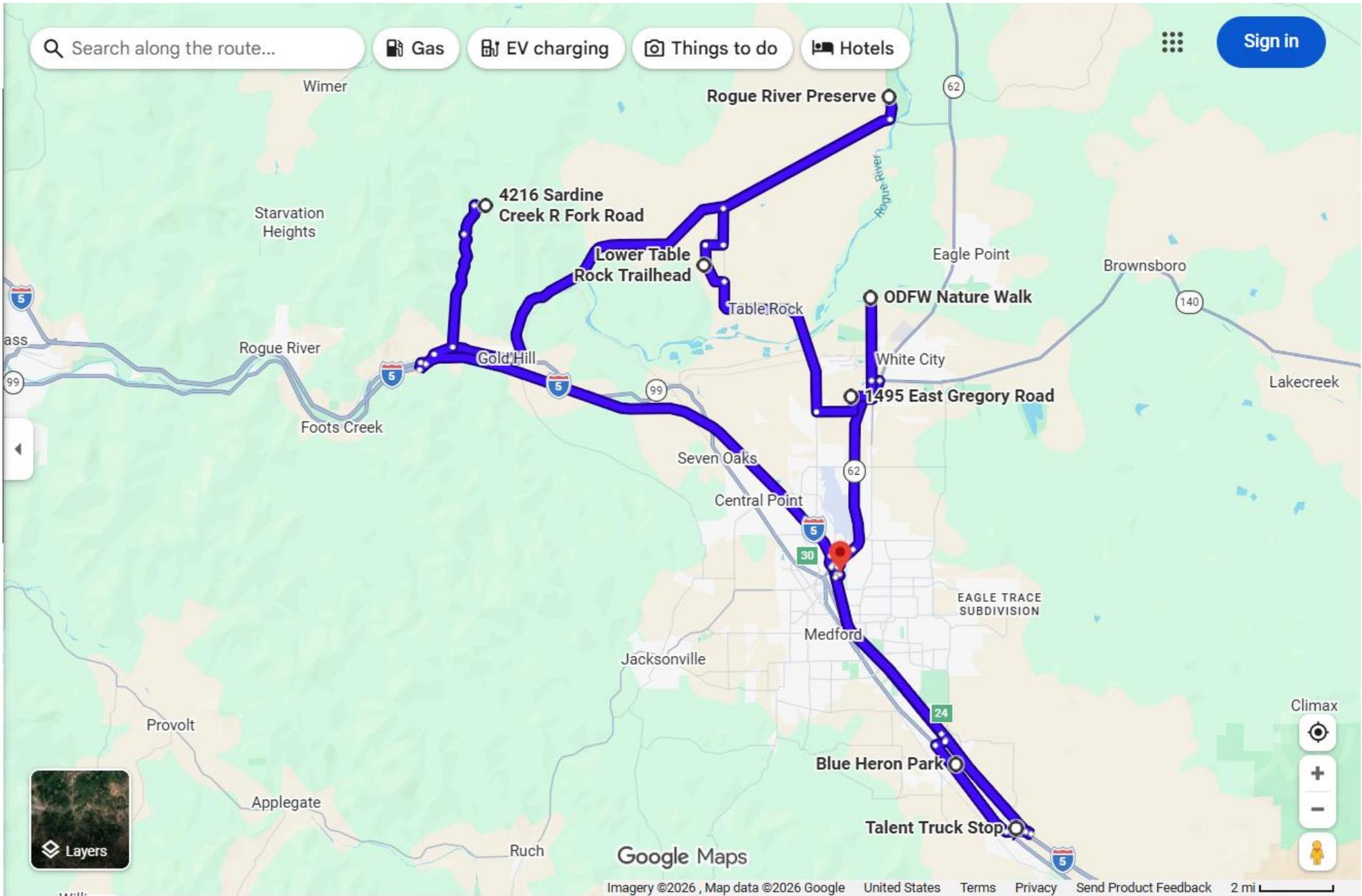
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Things to do

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