

= Yamsay Mountain =

Yamsay Mountain is a large shield volcano in the Cascade Range of south @-@ central Oregon , located about 35 miles (56 km) east of Crater Lake on the border between Klamath County and Lake County . It is part of the Cascade Volcanic Arc but is located in a mountain range 30 to 50 miles (50 to 80 km) behind the main Cascade volcanic front . The best known members of this enigmatic arc are the massive shields of Newberry Volcano , about 55 miles (89 km) farther north in Oregon , and Medicine Lake Volcano , about 80 miles (130 km) south in Northern California . Yamsay is the highest volcano in the eastern arc , almost 300 feet (90 m) higher than Newberry and Medicine Lake .

A central part of Klamath mythology , the mountain offers activities such as hiking and horseback riding . Historically , the area around it has been inhabited by Native American tribes and settlers . Until the 1970s , a fire lookout tower sat on the summit of the mountain , and its foundation remains to this day .

Life in the Cascades is quite diverse . The western half of the range features lush vegetation , and the eastern portion is drier . The range supports many animals , including both endemic and endangered species .

= = Geography and geology = =

Like other volcanoes in the Cascades Range , Yamsay was produced by subduction of the oceanic Juan de Fuca Plate under the North American Plate . Annual convergence between the two continues at a rate of 1 @.@ 6 inches (4 cm) per year . The Cascades make up the majority of the North American West Coast volcanoes ; they have been volcanically active for about 36 million years . The rock making up the Cascades is slightly older , dated between 55 and 42 million years old . In an attempt to organize the volcanoes by age , scientists typically divide them into two provinces : the High Cascades ? the younger volcanoes ? and the Western Cascades , comprising the older volcanoes .

Yamsay , along with the Simcoe volcanic complex , Medicine Lake Highlands , and Newberry Volcano , make up a wayward range of shield volcanoes between 50 kilometres (31 mi) and 60 kilometres (37 mi) east of the main Cascade Range . Volcanism at these centers is unlike other eruptions in the Cascades , and it does not stem from fissures as would Basin and Range volcanism . The volcanoes appear to be isolated from the major volcanic ranges in the Northwestern United States , although scientists group them as part of the Cascades .

Recent volcanism in the Cascades , lasting from 7 to 2 mya , produced largely basaltic and basaltic andesite @-@ based material (up to 50 percent) . On the eastern side of the High Cascades , however , volcanoes erupted dacite , andesite , and rhyolite . These materials made up several types of eruptions : lava flows , domes , and pyroclastic flows . In the most recent volcanic activity , andesite , basalt , and rhyolite have been erupted from High Cascades volcanoes , particularly the Three Sisters , Broken Top , Mount Hood , Mount Jefferson , and Crater Lake .

= = History = =

The name Yamsay is a corruption of the Klamath (a Native American tribe of Southern Oregon) name Yamsi , a form of Yamash , meaning " north wind . " This mountain was supposed to be the home of Kmukamtch , the supreme being of Klamath mythology . Historically , the area by the mountain was inhabited by Klamath , Modoc , and Yahooskin Bands , all of the Snake Paiute people . The Yahooskins lived east of Yamsay Mountain , near modern @-@ day Lakeview . Their group inhabited 22 million acres (89 @,@ 000 km2) of land in Oregon and California . Traders entered the area at some point between 1825 and 1827 , where they worked as trappers for the Hudson 's Bay Company . After routes opened up in 1846 , Fort Klamath was built (in 1863) .

The city of Klamath Falls (southeast of Yamsay) sprang up in the 1920s and featured the fastest @-@ growing population in Oregon . Contributors to this new growth and development included the

creation of the Southern Pacific Railroad , completed in 1909 . This opened the area for logging and timber business , which became the focus of the profit of the area .

The mountain features a United States Forest Service fire lookout tower with an 80 @-@ foot (24 m) steel tower , built on the summit of Yamsay in 1929 . It was removed after the 1970s , and only remnants of the foundation remain today . A dirt road was built to the summit to service the lookout , but this was abandoned after the tower was removed . The upper 3 @.@ 5 miles (5 @.@ 6 km) now form a hiking trail to the summit .

= = Climate and ecology = =

The Cascade Range is dramatically different in climate from west to east . The west side is heavily forested and features trees such as Douglas firs , western hemlock , Pacific silver firs , and Alaska yellow cedars . East of the Cascades , where Yamsay lies , the climate becomes much drier , even arid . Precipitation significantly declines and vegetation becomes more sparse , with lodgepole pine , white fir , ponderosa pine , and juniper . To the south , chaparral plants such as beargrass and bitterbrush prevail .

Diverse life exists within the range , including endangered species like Larch Mountain Salamanders and spotted owls . Amphibians like salamanders and frogs are common , as are birds . Mammals in the area consist of elk , mountain lions , deer , and black bears . Eastern Cascades fish include Lost River suckers and short suckers , which are both endemic species .

= = Recreation = =

The Fremont National Recreation Trail passes through the area . It offers tourists excellent views of other Oregon Cascades landmarks , such as Mount Bachelor , Mount Shasta , the Three Sisters , and Mount Thielsen . Other activities along the trail include hiking and horseback riding up the mountain from the recreation area located at an elevation between 6 @,@ 500 and 8 @,@ 196 feet (1 @,@ 981 and 2 @,@ 498 m) .