

Petgill Lake & bluffs – June 14, 2020

With the limitations imposed on us by COVID-19 we met at the Murrin parking lot at 9am. The parking lot was already filling up while we got ourselves organized. After dashing across hwy 99 and walking along the shoulder for a short distance we found the trailhead, rather overgrown with brush and somewhat hidden from view.

We were soon scrambling up the trail, which initially climbs steeply up a rock-face. Once the steep climb was finished, the trail entered cool forest. After about an hour we descended steeply onto an old logging road. The logging road is gradually returning to nature, and has improved considerably since our hike there last year.

After following the old logging road we re-entered the forest and were back on a much more enjoyable trail. We spotted pink Western Coralroot plants growing under the tree canopy. These unusual plants are able to thrive on the dark forest floor as they do not require chlorophyll to grow.

Arriving at the lake we noted a few people already enjoying their lunches, but we continued a bit further up the trail to our destination on the rocky bluff. This bluff overlooks Howe Sound and gives great views across to the peaks to the west of the Sound. Well, it would have done if we had not been surrounded by dense cloud! With a still breeze blowing we ate lunch quickly and then started down the trail.

Further down, the sky was brightening and we were rewarded with at least some good views from another bluff, closer to the start of the trail.