

Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway

Meander through ancient coulees and imagine walls of water hundreds of feet deep churning the rocks and soil, gouging these now dry canyons, leaving behind erratic rocks of all sizes and types as silent artifacts of roaring torrents. Observe a jewel-like lake, where mule deer and Peregrine Falcons live nearby.



Length: 150 miles / 240.0 km

Time to Allow: 3.5 hours to drive this byway

Local Information

Grant County Tourism

800-992-6234

Washington State Tourism Div.

800-544-1800

360-725-4181

Visitor Services



Accessibility

Restrooms with ADA accessibility are available at most major points of interest and communities along the route. All visitor centers have restrooms, and more than half are ADA-accessible. Many points of interest along the byway also have restrooms and/or vault toilets. All byway communities have businesses with restrooms. All byway communities that have motel/hotel rooms have rooms that are ADA-accessible. The new displays in the Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center were designed with universal access built into them or available from the visitor guides at the information desk.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

Wide shoulders provide easy bike travel with excellent sight distance in our vast, open landscapes. The byway consists of two-lane state roads, all paved and built in accordance to WSDOT safety standards. Center-lane rumble strips provides additional safety. Easy access to spur roads and loops provides less-experienced cyclists and families with slow road options where it is common to share the road with slow-traveling farm equipment.



Camping

Steamboat Rock and Sun Lakes State Parks both offer accessible accommodations for camping and day use. Lake Roosevelt National

Recreation Area also offers accessible accommodations for camping and day use.

Food



There are places to buy food along this byway.

Gasoline



Gasoline is available.

Information



* Omak Visitor Center is open April through October, 10 am-5 pm. * City of Coulee Dam Visitor Center and Park is open June through September, 10 am-5 pm. * Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center is open 9 am to 5 pm, Oct. 1 through May 15; and 9 am-10:30 pm, May 16 through Sept. 30. * Coulee Corridor Visitor Center, in Coulee City, is open year-round, with limited hours. * Dry Falls Visitor Center is open year-round from 10 am-5 pm. * Soap Lake Visitor Center is open limited hours and days year-round. * Moses Lake Visitor Center is open year-round. Although byway traveler services are clustered with wide, open scenic expanses in between, there are no gaps in traveler services within a 50-mile range.

Restrooms



All visitor centers on the byway have restrooms.

Retail



There are places to shop along this byway.

Special Considerations

The entire byway is a paved, two-lane roadway, except for a four-lane section from the intersection of I-90 to the entrance to Grant County Airport, approximately six miles. Two-wheel drive passenger vehicles are suited for the route, year-round. Conventional tour buses can travel the entire route without a problem; all major points of interest can accommodate tour buses with parking and loading and unloading of passengers.

Restrictions

The three state routes that comprise the byway present no traveling restrictions, year-round.

Seasons

Best Time to Drive

Abundant wildflowers, spring migrating birds, and unending sun shining on coulee walls make spring the best time of the year to experience the byway.

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High Season

Summer holiday weekends draw crowds of travelers filling the parks, campgrounds, and lake shores.

Off Season

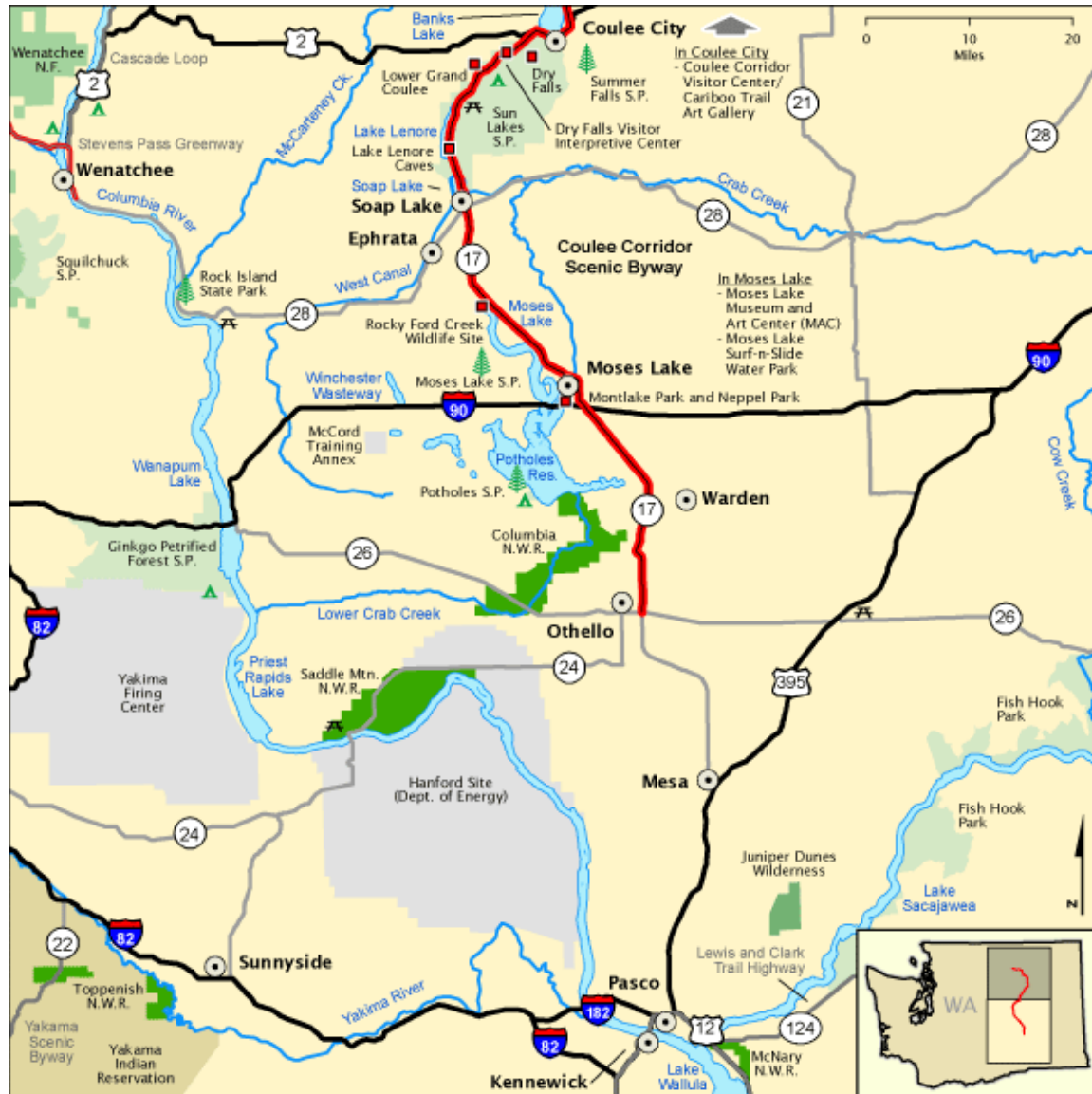
There are no seasonal closures on the byway. Eastern Washington has a relatively mild winter climate.

Map and Directions

Standard Map - North Section



Standard Map - South Section



Legend:

■ Point of Interest	▲ Campground	— Featured Byway	— Water	— State Border
🌲 Park	⛺ Picnic/Rest Area	— America's Byways	🌿 Wildlife Refuge	🏘 Urban Area
⚔ Mountain	🛣 84 Interstate	— Other Byway	🌿 Wilderness Area	🏞 Tribal Nation
🏙 City	🛣 40 U.S. Highway	— Other Road	🌿 Other Federal Lands	🏢 Military Base
★ Capital	🛣 87 State Highway	⋯ Trail	🌿 Other State Lands	

Driving Directions

The Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway runs in a north to south direction along parts of three highway routes -- SR 155, US 2 and SR 17 -- in the heart of north-central Washington.

The northern gateway is in the City of Omak, where SR 155 leaves US 97.

- Travel southeast across the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, over Disautel Pass, by the Town of Nespelem, and across the Columbia River at the Town of Coulee Dam.
- Cross SR 174 in the Town of Grand Coulee after 52.6 miles.
- Continue south on SR 155 along the shores of Banks Lake for 23.7 miles where SR 155 intersects with US 2.
- The byway turns west on US 2 for 6.2 miles going through the Town of Coulee City and across Dry Falls Dam where it joins SR 17.
- Head south on SR 17 for 21.3 miles where you'll cross SR 28 at the Town of Soap Lake.
- Continue south on SR 17 for 24.5 miles going through the City of Moses Lake and crossing Interstate 90.
- The byway continues south on SR 17 to its southern gateway, the City of Othello, crossing SR 26 in 22.4 miles.

Getting to the Byway

From Seattle, WA

- Drive I-90 east to Moses Lake.
- Exit onto WA-17 to enter the byway.

From Spokane, WA

- Drive I-90 southwest to Moses Lake.
- Exit onto WA-17 to enter the byway.

Road Trip:

A Day with the Birds on Coulee Corridor Scenic Byway

Departure: Sun Lake State Park & Resort, Washington

Destination: Northrup Canyon & State Park, Washington

Time to allow: 1 day

Gather your mittens and prepare for an exciting day with the birds. Swing in at Sun Lake State Park, Blue Lake Rest Area, Northrup Point Access, and Osborn Bay Campground to catch a glimpse of waterfowl. Attend the Balde Eagle Festival held at Northrup Canyon annually each February.

The following is a suggested one-day tour of the birding hotspots in the area. Please check local weather and conditions before starting. Birds are very seasonal, so time your trip for when the birds you want to spot might show up!

Day 1

- **Start: Sun Lake State Park & Resort**



Suggested time at this stop:

2 hours

Sun Lake State Park covers over 5,000 acres and offers visitors many birding opportunities. The park includes eight lakes which freeze during the winter. This causes the waterfowl in the area to crowd together, allowing you to see them in flocks. Birds you may see in the area include Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebes, American Wigeons, American Coots, Ruddy and Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaups, Buffleheads, Song Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos and Winter Wrens. High in the trees, you'll be able to spot Bald and Golden Eagles perching.

- **Stop 2: Blue Lake Rest Area**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 5 mi (8.0 km)

Directions: Return to SR17 via Park access road, turn left onto SR17 travel west for approx 5 miles, turn left off of SR17, park along the lake shore.

Suggested time at this stop: 30 minutes

As you stop by Blue Lake Rest Area, prepare to scope out Common Loons that stay on the lake during the winter. Golden Eagles and Peregrine Falcons make their home on the basalt bluffs that frame the great expanse of this 536-acre lake. WA-DOT rest area restrooms and parking area are closed mid-October until March. (Birding Site #38 on the Coulee Corridor Birding Trail Map.)

- **Stop 3: Osborn Bay Campground**

From previous stop: 45 minutes / 33.5 mi (53.6 km)

Directions: Travel east on SR17 (passing Sun Lakes State Park) to the intersection of SR17 and US2. Turn right onto US2 and travel 4 miles to the junction of US2 and SR155 (bear left onto SR155). Follow SR155 north to milepost 23 then turn left (north) onto Rd 57.1 (just past the Banks Lake Golf Course) and follow Rd 57.1 for 0.4 miles. There you should find a campground and boat launch.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Watch as Bald Eagles hunt the other birds on Banks Lake. The partially frozen lake contains ice shelves upon which Common and Hooded Mergansers, Lesser Scaups, Buffleheads, American Wigeons, and American Coots make their home. These birds make a nice treat for hungry Bald Eagles. (Birding Site #49 on the Coulee Corridor Birding Trail Map.)

• **Stop 4: Northrup Point Access**

From previous stop: 10 minutes / 5 mi (8.0 km)

Directions: Follow Rd 57.1 to SR155, turn right onto SR 155 south to milepost 18.9, turn right onto Northrup Point Access Road, and travel 0.3 miles to the paved parking lot.

Suggested time at this stop: 1 hour

Whether you are a beginning or an expert birder, Northrup Point Access will please and delight your birding fancy. On your excursion look up to see Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawks soaring through the crisp late winter air. Trees and shrubs may contain smaller birds such as Black-capped Chickadees, House Finches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Northern Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, and Varied Thrushes. (Birding Site #50 on the Coulee Corridor Birding Trail Map.)

• **End: Northrup Canyon & State Park**



From previous stop: 5 minutes / 1.5 mi (2.4 km)

Directions: Return to SR 155. Cross SR155 to Northrup Canyon Rd. and drive east 0.6 miles to the gate and gravel parking lot.

Suggested time at this stop: 2 hours 30 minutes

Conclude your trip with a stop by Northrup Canyon State Park's 3,000-acre canyon. Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Canyon Wrens, and Downy Woodpeckers can commonly be sighted in the canyon. However, the most alluring birding occurs November to March where 50 plus Bald Eagles can be seen from mid-afternoon till dark. The eagles show off, shuffling one another down a branch on the giant fir trees in a pecking order. This, along with the beautiful scenery of Northrup Canyon, makes a perfect end for your day of birding. (Birding Site #51 on the Coulee Corridor Birding Trail Map.)

Totals for Day 1

Total Distance Traveled: 45 miles / 72.0 km

Total Travel Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Total Stopping Time: 7 hours