Directions for Blue Mountain Trips

A. Pullman to Asotin

1. Meet on Wilson Road (off NE Stadium Way, across from WSU Martin Stadium) for carpooling
2. Turn right onto Stadium Way, continue past WSU campus downhill to junction with Grand (Hwy 27).
3. At traffic light, turn left onto 27 heading downtown, staying in the righthand lane. At the second traffic light, turn right on to Hwy 270. Continue up the hill about 2 miles to the junction with US Hwy 195. Turn left onto Hwy 95, following signs to Lewiston and Clarkston.
4. Continue south on 195 about 2.5 miles to stop sign at T intersection with Hwy 27. Turn right and stay on 195, following signs to Lewiston/Clarkston
5. Continue on Hwy 195, about 20 miles, passing through scenic Colton and historic Uniontown (beware the speed limits there!) to the junction with US Hwy 95 at the Idaho border.
6. Merge onto US Hwy 95, continuing south on the 4 lane highway to Lewiston. This is a 7 mile stretch and a steep and windy road, but with great views.
7. At the bottom of the big hill the highway splits into routes for Boise and Missoula (left lanes) and Lewiston/Clarkston (right lanes). Stay in the right lane. Take the first right to merge on to Hwy 128. At the stop sign, turn right again to follow the frontage road (this will bypass lots of construction in Lewiston and Clarkston).
8. Stay on Hwy 128 on the north side of the Snake for about 4 miles, crossing back into Washington. Turn left to go over the Snake River at the Red Wolf Crossing Bridge.
9. In two blocks there is a traffic light at 128 and US Hwy 12. Continue straight thru the light onto 15th Street and proceed for 1.5 miles to the junction with Fleshman Way. Turn left at the traffic light onto Fleshman. Continue on Fleshman past the first interchange. At the second interchange, exit to 5th Street (follow signs to Asotin). At the traffic circle, bear right and take the immediate first exit onto 5th Street (also known as WA Hwy 129 or Riverside Drive).
10. Continue south on Riverside Dr about 4 miles to Asotin. Asotin has the last gasoline on the trip. And a convenience store for beverages and snacks.

B. Asotin to Anatone (Saturday)

11. Stay on Highway 129 in Asotin, heading south (along the Snake River) to a stop sign. Turn right and continue on Hwy 129, going up a steep and winding hill with many switchbacks. Passengers might enjoy seeing the white flowered *Calochortus macrocarpus* var. *maculosus a*longside the road (a Blue Mts endemic). Continue south after cresting the hill on Hwy 129 about 17 miles to Anatone (which is basically a town of 3 or 4 buildings).
12. At Anatone, turn right on to Mill Road. In about ¾ mile turn left on to East Mountain Road. Continue on this gravel road 2 miles to junction with Smyth Road. Continue to right on East Mountain Road thru an area of cabins for 3 miles to a T with West Mountain Road. Turn left onto West Mountain road, climbing the hill for about 2.5 miles before crossing into Umatilla National Forest and NF Road 4304.
13. Lots of interesting things along this main Forest Service Road. Your trip leaders will point out *Penstemon pennellianus* at stops along the road, as well as *Penstemon fruticosus* and *P. glandulosus*, and the ever-ubiquitous *P. attenuatus* (but keep an eye peeled for the yellow phase!). With any luck you might even find the elusive *Penstemon rydbergii*.

14. Return to Pullman – follow instructions from your trip leaders, depending on where you end up on Blue Mountain at the turn-around time (remember the members meeting starts in the WSU CUB building at 6:30 PM, so allow plenty of time to return). If going back through Clarkston it might be easier to stay on Hwy 12 eastbound to rejoin US Hwy 95 in Pullman, as turning left onto 95 from the frontage road (128) we took in the morning is difficult with traffic (there is no stop light)

C. Asotin to Clearwater Lookout and north Blue Mountains (Sunday)

11. At the north end of Asotin, turn on to Asotin Creek Road (this road is right below the basalt cliffs on the west side of the highway). Proceed along Asotin Creek Road for 2.8 miles to the junction with the Cloverdale Road. Bear right at the junction to stay on the Asotin Creek Road. After about 12 miles there is a T at the junction of Lickfork Road and Asotin Road (there is a WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife's North Fork Asotin Creek parking area is at the junction). Turn right onto Lickfork Road.
12. Continue west on Lickfork Road on WDFW lands. At the mouth of the canyon, there is a large pullout (milepost 4) on the right side of the road where you can find a nice patch of *Penstemon venustus*.
13. Continue west on Lickfork Road (also NF road 41). On the right-hand side, look for an old concrete foundation and building at the mouth of Cottonwood Gulch (N side) and Sourdough Gulch (S side). There is a large area to park. *Penstemon deustus* is all over the hillside and road on the north side.
14. Continue west on Lickfork Road. By the Umatilla Forest boundary there is a healthy patch of *Penstemon glandulosus* along the roadside – unless deer have nibbled off the flower heads!
15. Continue west on Lick Creek Road, climbing onto the summit of the Blue Mountains. The summit flats have conifer forests interspersed with rocky open meadows. *Penstemon attenuatus* should be present along the road. The meadow at Devils Eyebrow has a large area for roadside parking and is a good place to see some of the Forest wildflowers, like *Paeonia brownii, Trifolium macrocephalum, Allium fibrillum*, and various *Lomatium* and *Lupinus*.
16. Continue west on NF 41 to junction with NF-40. Stop at the Clearwater Lookout, where there is a large field of *Penstemon pennellianus*.
17. Follow the instructions of your trip leader for the return trek. One suggestion would be to head out the north end of the Blue Mountains via NF-42 (the road to Peola). Backtrack on NF-41 (Lick Creek Road) from Clearwater Lookout about 1 mile east to junction of NF 41 and NF 42 (also called Ruchert Road). Bear left onto NF-42 and proceed north about 7 miles. Just before leaving the Umatilla NF, look for a wide pullout and a large signboard on the left and stop. Head east towards Alder Spring (the road is likely closed and not very good anyway – better to walk it). Over a low rise and through a small grove of Ponderosa pine (which may have *P. attenuatus* and *P. pennellianus*), following the fence line east, continue on the 2 track to a large opening on rocky, slightly S-dipping reddish brown lava rock soil and a cushion plant community. While there are no Penstemons here, there are many rare and endemic Blue Mountain species in the barren gravel along and upslope of the road, including *Phlox solivaga, Erigeron disparipilus, Astragalus reventus, Balsamorhiza serrata,* and *Allium tolmiei*.
18. Head home via FS-42, which is paved after the Forest boundary and becomes the Iron Spring Road. Stay on the main road as it becomes the Sweeney Gulch Road and joins US Hwy 12. Turn right (east) to return on Hwy 12 to Clarkston, and follow signs to merge with US 95 in Lewiston to return to Pullman.