

Place Name Origins

Places Named After Natural Features

Cape Foulweather is the place (and weather) of Captain Cook's first landfall in Oregon

Cascade Range was named after the rapids in the Columbia River

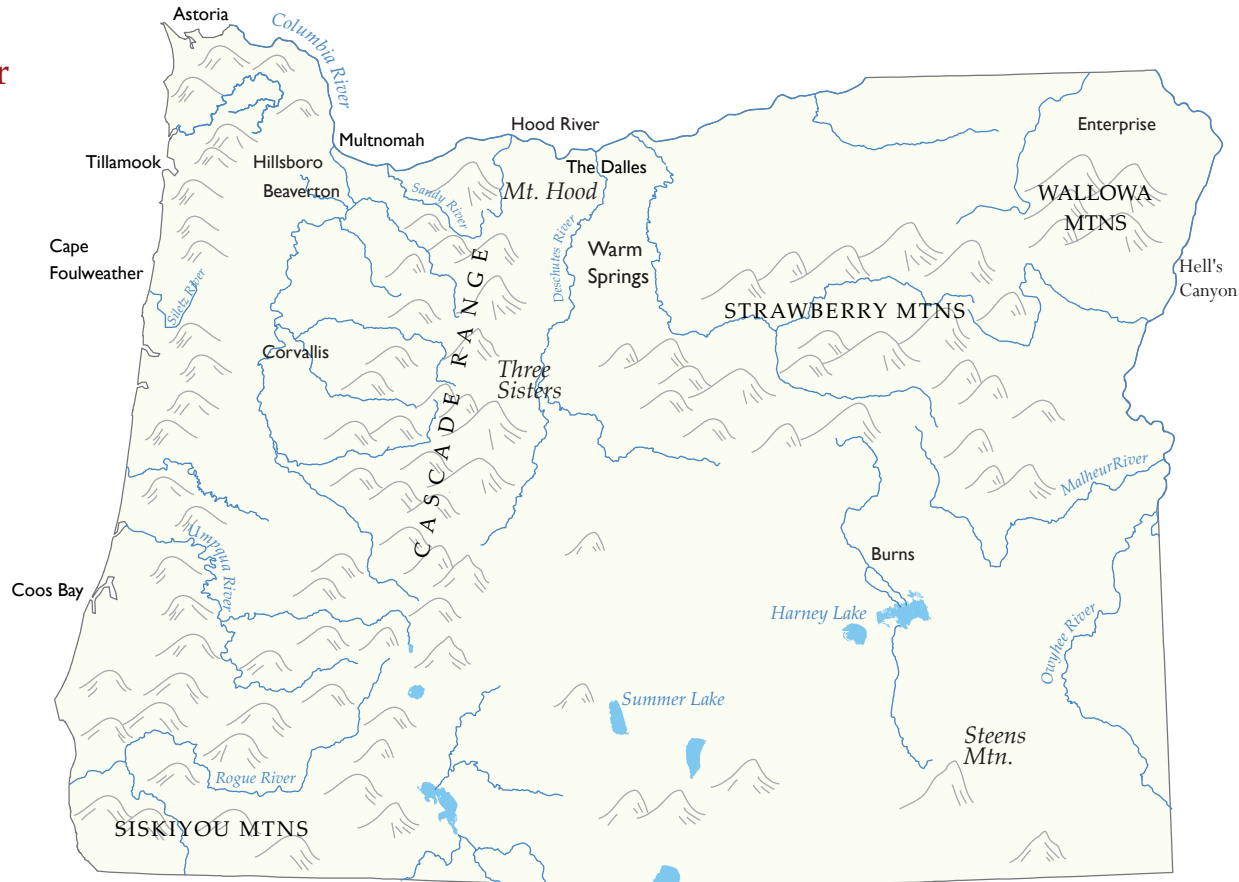
The Dalles means "flagstones" in French, and refers to a narrow river bordered by flat ledges

Sandy River is short "Quicksand River", named by Lewis and Clark

Strawberry Mountains are named for the wild strawberries found in the area

Deschutes River means "falls" in French and refers to Celilo Falls on the Columbia River

Warm Springs is named for the local natural



Places with Native American Names

Tillamook is the name of a Salish tribe

Multnomah is the Chinook name for the Willamette River

Wallowa Mountains refers to a Nez Perce word for a type of fish trap

Siskiyou Mountains is a Cree word for "spotted horse" which a fur trader lost in a snowstorm in the mountains

Siletz River refers to a local Native American word for black bear

Umpqua River is a Native American word for the area around that river

Coos Bay was named after the Cook-koo-oose tribe

Places Named for Explorers and Immigrant Settlers

Hillsboro is named after Oregon's first elected governor, David Hill

Three Sisters mountains were originally called Faith, Hope, and Charity by missionaries

Hell's Canyon in the Snake River gorge was named to promote tourism

Columbia River was named by Captain Robert Gray after his ship, the "Columbia Rediviva", with first entered the river in 1792

Beaverton is named for the abundance of beavers that originally inhabited the wetlands of this agricultural region

Burns is named for the Scottish poet Robert Burns

Hood River and Mt. Hood are named for Samuel Hood, a member of Captain Vancouver's expedition
Corvallis is Latin for "heart of the valley"

Steens Mountain is named for the army major who fought the Paiutes in the region in 1860

Summer Lake was named by Captain Fremont to contrast with nearby Winter Ridge

Enterprise was named by the town's first, and optimistic, residents

Rogue River was first called Woodville, but was changed to better advertise the town

Harney Lake is named after a Brigadier General William Harney

Owyhee River is named for Hawaiian fur trappers killed nearby

Malheur River Means "misfortune" in French and refers to thefts of furs that hunters experienced in the area

Astoria is named for John Jacob Astor whose fur company had a trading post there