

PARK FORTY
SELF-GUIDED
INTERPRETIVE
TRAIL

From Main Street at Collins Drive,
Go 7 miles West on Highway 36.
At the Pacific Crest Trail crossing,
Go 80 yards North on the PC Trail.
[Trail Guides available at trail head.](#)

This half-mile loop starts out 80 yards North of Hwy 36 on the East side of the Pacific Crest Trail. The first part goes through dense white fir thickets, which developed as a result of the exclusion of fire over the last century. It then comes out into an open stand that is being restored to a condition resembling forests in pre-settlement times, when fires burned through the understory about every ten years.

HISTORY OF
PARK FORTY

The Park Forty was an isolated 40 acres owned by Collins and surrounded by federal land. It contained many old-growth trees ranging from five to six feet in diameter. In the early 1940s, Collins decided to set aside this 40 acres as a preserve, where trees would only be salvaged after they died. In the 1980s, Collins picked up the surrounding area from the Forest Service in a land exchange, but continued to maintain the Park Forty as an old-growth stand.

The Maidu Indians would have migrated through this area prior to European settlement. Fires burned through the forest periodically, opening up the understory and encouraging the regeneration of pine.

HISTORY OF PARK FORTY
(continued)

Starting around 1910, fires were eliminated in this area, resulting in the encroachment of dense white fir thickets in the understory. White fir is a shade-tolerant species, which can regenerate in undisturbed stands, while pine does better with more sunlight and disturbance.

In recent years, the Collins forestry staff decided to open up the understory to the west of the Pacific Crest Trail and reintroduce periodic burning in order to restore that area to a pre-settlement condition. The area east of the trail will be maintained as long as possible with the dense fir thickets to illustrate how forests evolve in this area with the exclusion of fire.