

**The Dunes 6 Mile Hiking Trail** follows a circular path in semi-wilderness desert terrain, with lakes and marchland nearby along most of the trail. White marker posts 1 through 15 help guide you. Use these in conjunction with the map and natural landmarks to find your way. **The trail begins behind the Visitor center.**

### DIRECTIONS

**Post 1—>2** from the Visitors Center, hike south paralleling the gravel road that goes to the Equestrian Area.

**Post 2 —>4** The trail turns southeast and becomes much less defined. Avoid side trails leading into the marsh.

**Post 4—>7** The trail turns east with the ground becoming more sandy. Continue east toward the tapered western slope of the Big Dune.

**Post 7—>8** Ascend to the crest of the western-most dune and walk the razor's edge along the ridge reaching a height of 470 feet. Here you will find some of the most spectacular vistas in the park.

**The “Vortex” Crater** Just past the crest of the Big Dune, the ridgeline descends around the rim of the 300 foot bowl shaped crater. Once here, continue along the crest of the smaller dune until you notice a small slough on the south slope toward the end of the ridge. Descend southward off the dune and across the slough. This is a good spot to rest, snack, and dump the sand out of your shoes.

**Post 8—>10** The trail goes over small sand dunes on the east side of the smaller lake, rounds the north shore through the willows, and joins the Equestrian Trail near the Observatory Picnic Area.

**Post 10—>14** Here the trail crosses other trails going to Eagle Cove and Broken Wheel campgrounds. Walk past the Observatory parking area and out the entrance road. Cross the park road and hike in a southwesterly direction. Descend through the Russian Olive trees and up the other side. Continue across the rolling hills in a westerly direction.

**Post 14—>15** The final leg of the trail splits from the Equestrian trail and tracks northwest back to Post 1 and the Visitor Center.

### FLORA AND FAUNA

The park has a fascinating wealth of wildlife for you to enjoy. The march areas have waterfowl, shorebirds, muskrats, and frogs. Look for coots, teal, mallards, buffleheads, grebes, scaups, and herons on the lakes. On land, you may see coyotes, jackrabbits, cottontails, lizards, or gopher snakes. Be alert, wildlife signs surround you. Desert flowers may be in bloom along the way—especially during May and June. *Collecting wildlife or wildflowers is prohibited.*

**The circular nature of the trail allows you to start at any point or to shorten the hike using any of the alternate routes shown in the map.**

# Bruneau Dunes State Park

## 6 Mile Self Guided Hiking Trail



Unlock the mysteries of the desert on Bruneau Dunes 6 mile hiking trail with breathtaking views you won't forget

### TRIP DATA

**Mileage:** 6 miles

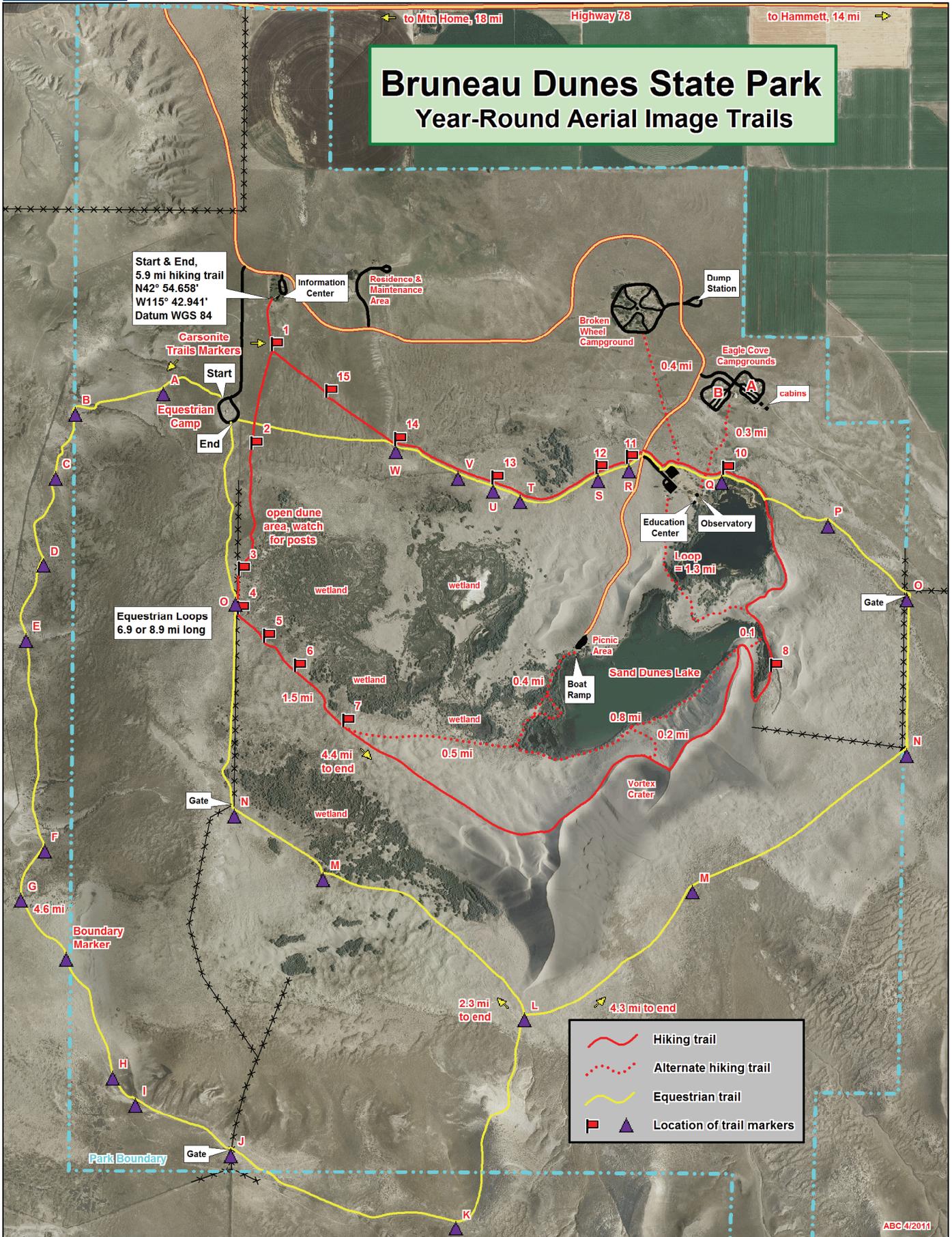
**Terrain:** Moderately strenuous on top of the sand dunes

**What to pack:** 1-2 quarts of water per person, sturdy shoes, a snack, bug spray, sunscreen, compass, camera

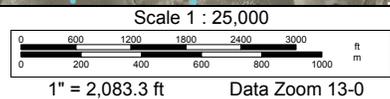
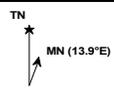
**Duration:** 3-6 hours

**Precautions:** Summer heat is intense, so hike in the morning or evening and carry 1-2 quarts of water or more.

# Bruneau Dunes State Park Year-Round Aerial Image Trails



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