



Cross-Country Skiing

Echo Summit

Eldorado National Forest

Placerville Ranger District



Directions

The Echo Summit Cross-country Ski Trail System features 3.2 miles of posted trails including two ski trails and two loop trails. To reach this trail system from Placerville on eastbound U.S. Highway 50, travel 2.8 miles past the Sierra-at-Tahoe sign towards Echo Summit. You will turn right onto the Echo Summit Road. An entrance fee is required. This parking area is no longer part of the California Snow-Park system so sno-park passes are not accepted. The new facility name is Adventure Mountain, Lake Tahoe. For information go to adventuremountaintahoe.com.

Trail Descriptions



Benwood Meadow Tr. (.6 M/1 km)

Elevation: 7,400 to 7,500 feet. This trail can be accessed from the southeast corner of the Sno-Park. The trail will take you up one of the ski runs of the closed Echo Summit downhill ski resort. Once you climb up the hill, the trail follows fairly gentle terrain. This trail will give you access to two loop trails, Benwood Meadow, and the start of the Upper Benwood Meadow Ski Trail. As you travel through the forest, you will be able to view the picturesque mountain peaks through the openings in the trees. You will have an opportunity to see the winter landscape created by a high mountain meadow at this trail's end.



Frog Pond Loop (1 M / 1.6 km)

Elevation: 7,500 feet. This loop trail shares a portion of its route with the Rock Garden Loop. This loop starts to the left about 0.4 miles south on the Benwood Meadow Ski Trail. This trail loop will take you around Frog Pond. Do you wonder how frogs survive in this frozen landscape? Underneath the insulating blanket of snow and ice of Frog Pond, the frogs seek shelter in the mud in a state of suspended animation. Their respiration and metabolism are greatly reduced until the warmth of spring and summer wake the frogs from their long winter sleep. This loop trail will tie back into the Benwood Meadow Trail on the right after it swings by Benwood Meadow.



Rock Garden Loop (0.9M / 1.4km)

Elevation: 7,400 feet. This ski trail loop starts about 400 feet down the Benwood Meadow Ski Trail to your left. This loop trail takes you out onto a rocky shelf which sits above the Upper Truckee River. A mantle of snow will conceal the boulders which give this trail its name. These boulders were probably deposited on this shelf by glaciers from past ice ages. The Rock Garden Loop will rejoin the Benwood Meadow Trail about 0.25 miles south of where you started on this loop.



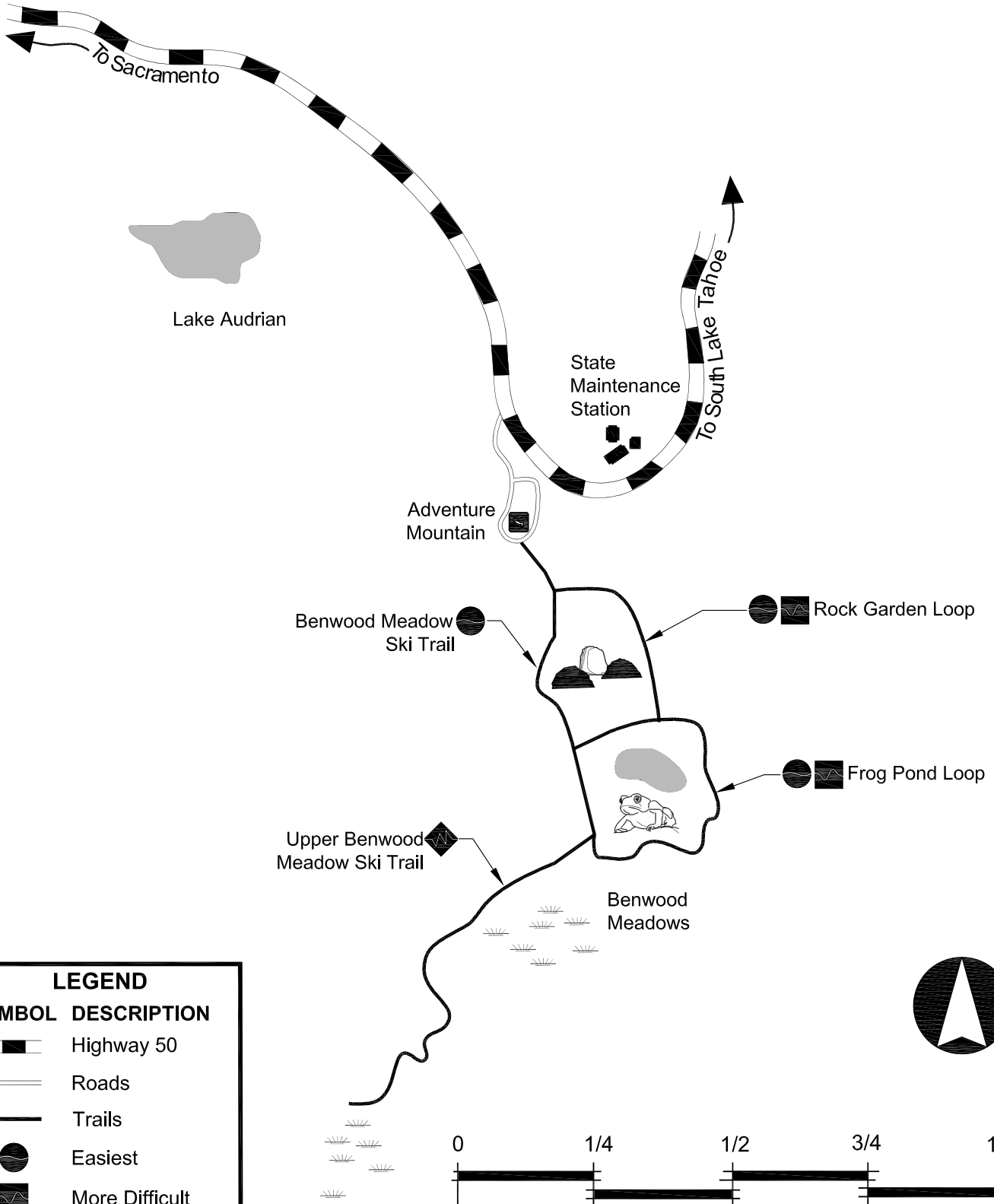
Upper Benwood Meadow (1.4 M/ 2.2 km)

Elevation: 7,500 to 7,800 feet. This trail takes off to the right just before you arrive at Benwood Meadow. This trail will take you up a steep incline into a rocky basin that contains Upper Benwood Meadow. This trail is the most challenging trail in the Echo Summit Trail System with its steep grades and narrow trail.



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LEGEND

SYMBOL DESCRIPTION

-  Highway 50
-  Roads
-  Trails
-  Easiest
-  More Difficult
-  Most Difficult

Scale