



# Cross-Country Skiing Echo to Kirkwood Ski Trail Eldorado National Forest



## Welcome

The Echo to Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Trail is a classic ski tour, which extends from Echo summit on Highway 50 south to the Caples Lake/Kirkwood area on Highway 88. The route includes steep climbs and descents combined with rolling gentle terrain along the crest. It offers spectacular scenery with panoramic views of Lake Tahoe, the Crystal Range, Caples Lake, and Round Top. **The recommended travel direction is from Echo Summit south to Highway 88.**

Skiers will experience old-growth forests, rolling hills, meadows, exposed high alpine ridges and will have the opportunity to observe a variety of wildlife.

## General Information

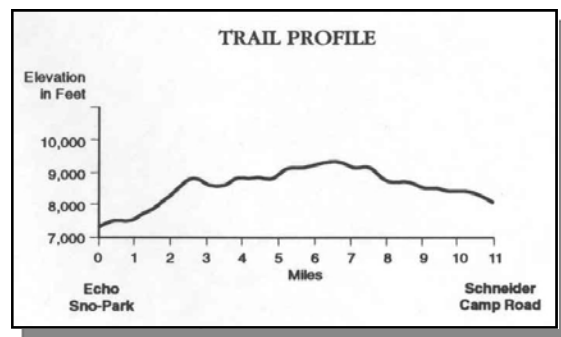
- ❖ **Mileage:** 11.0 miles (one way)
- ❖ **Elevations:** 7,350' (Echo Sno-Park)  
9,200' (Highest Point)  
8,200' (Schneider Camp Rd.)
- ❖ **Use Season:** December – April
- ❖ **Topo Maps:** Echo Lakes & Caples Lake  
7 ½ minute quads
- ❖ **Difficulty:** Difficult (long with steep pitches)



## Access

**North End (Echo):** Parking is available at the Echo Summit parking area on the south side of Highway 50 at Echo Summit. This facility is no longer part of the state Sno-Park system so sno-park passes are not accepted. Entrance fee required.

**South End (Kirkwood):** Parking is available 1/8 mile north of Highway 88 off the Schneider Camp Road. Parking is allowed at Kirkwood's Schneider Camp parking area with a parking permit only. Cars without permits will be towed. Parking permits can be obtained at the Kirkwood Cross-Country Center located on Highway 88 at Kirkwood between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



## Be Prepared

Echo to Kirkwood Cross-country Ski Trail is a challenging route demanding the highest commitment and winter backcountry travel skills. These skills include but are not limited to:

- ❖ **Route-Finding:** You must have experience in route-finding in all weather conditions. The route is intermittently marked with blue diamonds; they should not be relied on for continuous trail location. Do not rely on other ski tracks as they may not be associated with this route.
- ❖ **Orienteering:** You must be able to read a topographical map and use a compass.
- ❖ **Winter Camping:** *You may not be able to complete this route in one day.* Snow and weather conditions and the fitness and skill of your entire party will determine the time required to complete this route. Plan on a minimum of a full eight-hour day. Always be prepared for the possibility of turning around and/or spending an unplanned night out. For those that plan to camp overnight, you will find a number of scenic sites all along the trail.
- ❖ **Avalanche Hazard Evaluation:** Always check with a Forest Service information office before your trip for the weather forecast and official avalanche warnings.
- ❖ **Wilderness First Aid:** Be familiar with the signs, symptoms and treatment of hypothermia and frostbite.

### For More Information Contact:

**Eldorado National Forest**  
[www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado)

**Amador Ranger Station**  
26820 Silver Drive  
Pioneer, CA 95666  
(209) 295-4251

**Placerville Ranger District**  
4260 Eight Mile Road  
Camino, CA 95709  
(530) 644-2324

**El Dorado Nordic Ski Patrol**  
P.O. Box 1113  
Pollock Pines, Ca 95726  
(530) 647-1825  
<http://www.ednsp.com>

**Avalanche Forecast Number**  
(530) 587-2158  
[www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/  
today.html](http://www.sierraavalanchecenter.org/today.html)

### What To Bring With You

Equipment should always include but not be limited to the following essentials:

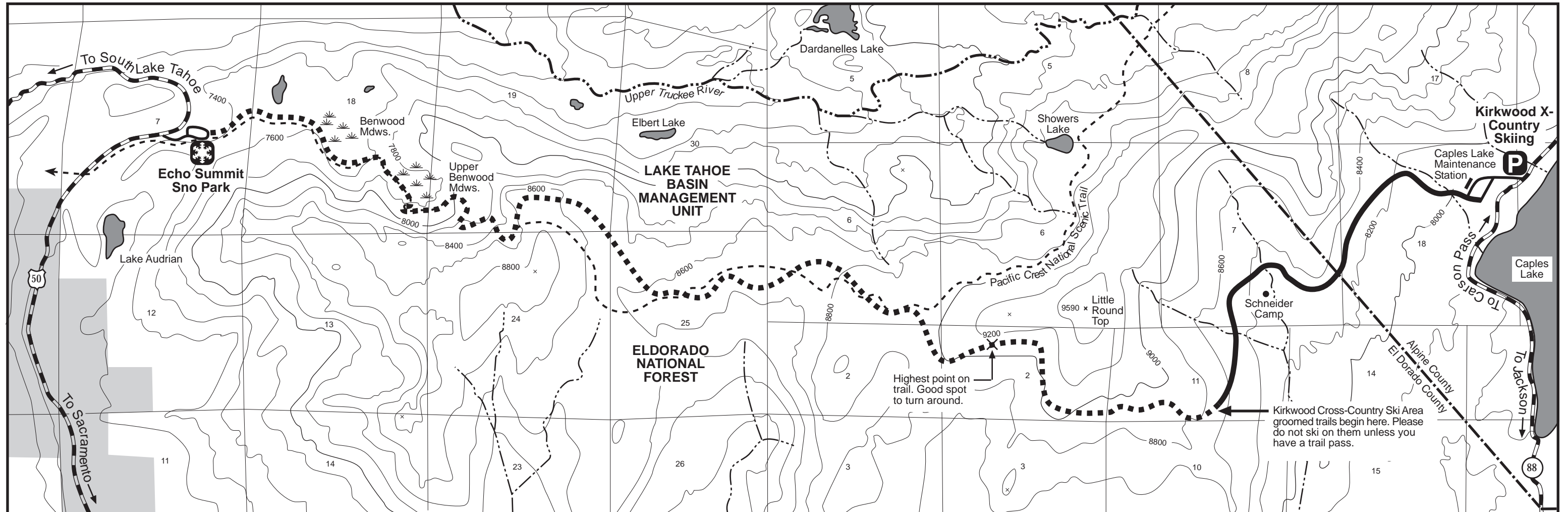
- ✓ First Aid kit
- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Map
- ✓ Headlamp
- ✓ Extra clothing
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Sunscreen
- ✓ Fire starter/matches
- ✓ Knife
- ✓ Plastic tarp or space blanket
- ✓ Repair kit for skis and bindings
- ✓ Metal container for melting snow
- ✓ Extra food and water



# Echo to Kirkwood Cross Country Trail

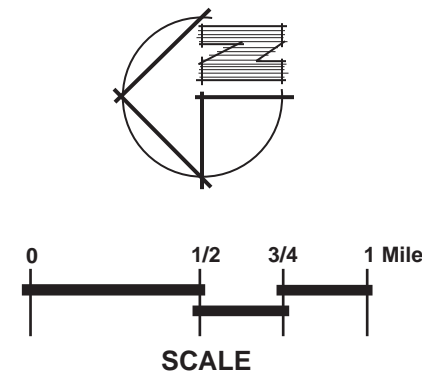


Placerville Ranger District  
Amador Ranger District



## LEGEND

- |  |  |  |                          |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
|  | Highway  |  | County Boundary Line     |
|  | Road   |  | Rivers & Streams         |
|  | Echo to Kirkwood Trail<br>(No Snowmobiles allowed)                   |  | Private Land             |
|  | Echo to Kirkwood Trail<br>(Open to Snowmobiles and X-Country Skiers) |  | Contour (200' Intervals) |
|  | Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail                                  |  |                          |



## BE AWARE

Sometimes Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area grooms portions of the blue diamond marked Echo to Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Trail. A trail pass is not required by Echo to Kirkwood skiers to use these groomed portions of the trail. A trail pass is required if you choose to use other groomed ski trails away from the blue diamond marked ski trail.

Approximately 2 - 1/2 miles of the trail is also designated by orange diamonds as a snowmobile route. **WATCH AND LISTEN FOR SNOWMOBILERS!**