



# Non-Motorized Trails

## Eldorado National Forest



**CAUTION: Caldor & Mosquito Fire Areas** - Recreating in a post-fire area carries a number of hazards and dangers. We recommend checking out other areas in the forest outside the Fire areas for your recreation activities.

### Be Prepared

- ✓ Bring at least the 10 essentials: map, compass, sunglasses/sunscreen, whistle, extra food and water, extra clothing, flashlight, first aid kit, pocket knife, matches/lighter, and fire-starting material.
- ✓ Let someone know where you are going and when you will return.

### Water

- ✓ Bring drinking water with you.

### Weather

- ✓ Obtain a recent weather report.
- ✓ Weather conditions can change quickly in the mountains. Be prepared with the proper clothing, no matter how short the hike.

### Bicycles

- ◆ Bicycles are prohibited on trails within any designated Wilderness Area and on the Pacific Crest Trail. Be aware that some of the listed trails cross into the Wilderness.
- ◆ Mountain bikes are permitted on most trails outside of Wilderness Areas. There are some steep narrow trails where bicycles are not recommended because of the safety hazard to other users, primarily equestrians.
- ◆ Exercise caution on heavily used trails.
- ◆ Yield to hikers and horses.

### Pets

- ◆ Pets are permitted on trails unless otherwise stated. They must be under immediate control of the owner so as not to disturb wildlife or hikers. A leash is strongly recommended and may be required by County leash laws.

### Permits

- ◆ Campfire permits are required for campfires, BBQs and stoves outside of developed recreation hosted sites. No campfires are allowed in Desolation Wilderness.
- ◆ Desolation Wilderness requires both day and overnight permits year-round. Self-register day use permits can be obtained at most major trailheads during the summer and at Pacific Ranger District year-round. Obtain an overnight wilderness permits in advance at [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov), the Pacific Ranger District, or Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Office.
- ◆ Mokelumne Wilderness requires overnight permits year-round. Overnight camping in the Carson Pass Management Area is restricted to designated sites at Winnemucca, Round Top, and Fourth of July Lakes year round.
- ◆ Day-Use Trailhead Fee - Carson Pass, Meiss, Woods Lake Trailheads, and Woods Lake Picnic Area.

### Please Remember

- ◆ Other hikers will appreciate your observation of trail courtesy and regulations. Bikers yield to hikers and horses; Hikers yield to horses.
- ◆ Hike single file to avoid widening the trail and damaging vegetation. Do not cut switchbacks.
- ◆ **PACK OUT WHAT YOU PACK IN!**

### For More Information Contact:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Amador Ranger District</b><br>26820 Silver Drive<br>Pioneer, CA 95666 (AMA)<br>(209) 259-3774 | <b>Georgetown Ranger District</b><br>7600 Wentworth Springs Road<br>Georgetown, CA 95634 (GTN)<br>(530) 333-4312 |
|--|--|

**Placerville & Pacific Ranger Districts**  
4260 Eight Mile Road  
Placerville, CA 95667(PVL/PAC)  
(530) 644-2324

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The chart below lists non-wilderness trails, which are located in the Eldorado National Forest. Refer to the trail descriptions for directions to each trail. Many of the trailheads have dispersed camping available at the trailheads. Please call for details.

**DIFFICULTY:** E = EASY    M = MORE DIFFICULT    S = MOST DIFFICULT  
**USE:**            L = LIGHT        M = MODERATE        H = HEAVY  
**USE TYPES:**   H = HIKING    E = EQUESTRIAN        B = BICYCLE

| <b>Trails</b>                                       | <b>Distance one way (miles)</b> | <b>Lowest Elevation (ft)</b> | <b>Highest Elevation (ft)</b> | <b>Difficulty</b> | <b>Use</b> | <b>Use Types</b> | <b>Comments</b>                                  | <b>District</b> |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Carson Pass Area</b>                             |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |  |                 |
| Lake Margaret                                       | 2.5                             | 7,640                        | 7,890                         | M                 | H          | HEB              |  | AMA             |
| Meiss Lake  | 4                               | 8,480                        | 8,800                         | M                 | H          | HE               | PCT section                                      | AMA             |
| Showers Lake  | 4                               | 8,530                        | 8,800                         | M                 | H          | HE               | PCT section                                      | AMA             |
| <b>Silver Lake Area</b>                             |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |  |                 |
| Allen Camp  | 2                               | 7,300                        | 8,100                         | S                 | M          | HEB              | Motorcycles allowed                              | AMA             |
| Granite Lake  | 1                               | 7,500                        | 7,600                         | MS                | M          | HEB              |  | AMA             |
| Hidden Lake   | 3                               | 7,650                        | 7,700                         | MS                | M          | HEB              |  | AMA             |
| Horse Canyon  | 5                               | 7,300                        | 8,900                         | S                 | M          | HEB              | Motorcycles allowed on part of trail             | AMA             |
| Granite Lake — Allen Camp                           | 2.5                             | 7,300                        | 7,600                         | MS                | M          | HE               |  | AMA             |
| Scout Carson Lake                                   | 5                               | 8,900                        | 8,980                         | S                 | L          | HEB              |  | AMA             |
| Shealor Lake  | 1.5                             | 7,250                        | 7,600                         | MS                | M          | HE               |  | AMA             |
| Thunder Mountain                                    | 3.6                             | 7,840                        | 9,410                         | MS                | M          | HEB              |  | AMA             |
| <b>Bear River Reservoir</b>                         |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |  |                 |
| Devils Lake   | 1.5                             | 6,900                        | 7,280                         | MS                | M          | HEB              |  | AMA             |
| <b>Between Highway 50 and 88 (Caldor Fire Area)</b> |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |  |                 |
| Bryan Meadows                                       | 3                               | 7,200                        | 8,400                         | M                 | L          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Buck Pasture  | 3                               | 8,000                        | 8,600                         | M                 | L          | HEB              | Motorcycles allowed                              | PVL             |
| Caples Creek  | 4                               | 5,700                        | 6,400                         | M                 | M          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Cedar Park Trail System                             | 1.2                             | 3,640                        | 3,700                         | E                 | H          | H                | Paved Trails, Pets must be leashed               | PVL             |
| Cody Lake   | 0.5                             | 7,200                        | 7,300                         | E                 | M          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Fleming Meadow Trail System                         | 8.8                             | 3,200                        | 3,800                         | M                 | M          | HEB              | Pets must be leashed                             | PVL             |
| Government Meadows                                  | 0.5                             | 6,300                        | 6,400                         | EM                | L          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Little Round Top                                    | 2.5                             | 8,300                        | 9,000                         | M                 | L          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Lovers Leap   | 2.5                             | 5,900                        | 6,900                         | M                 | L          | HEB              | Motorcycles allowed                              | PVL             |
| Mount Ralston                                       | 3                               | 6,500                        | 8,900                         | S                 | M          | HE               | Wilderness permit required                       | PVL             |
| Old Silver Lake                                     | 1.5                             | 6,000                        | 6,800                         | M                 | L          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Pacific Crest Trail                                 | 13                              | 7,300                        | 9,000                         | S                 | H          | HE               |  | PVL             |
| Pyramid Creek Loop                                  | 1.7                             | 6,120                        | 6,400                         | M                 | H          | H                | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary. | PVL             |
| Sayles Canyon                                       | 4.5                             | 6,800                        | 8,700                         | M                 | M          | HEB              |  | PVL             |
| Silver Fork   | 3                               | 6,100                        | 6,800                         | M                 | M          | HEB              | Motorcycles allowed                              | PVL             |
| Trestle Trail                                       | 1.2                             | 4,720                        | 4,760                         | E                 | L          | HEB              |  | PVL             |

| <b>Trails</b>                        | <b>Distance one way (miles)</b> | <b>Lowest Elevation (ft)</b> | <b>Highest Elevation (ft)</b> | <b>Difficulty</b> | <b>Use</b> | <b>Use Types</b> | <b>Comments</b>   | <b>District</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Crystal Basin Recreation Area</b> |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |   |                 |
| Bassi Falls                          | 0.5 - 2                         | 5,200                        | 5,800                         | M                 | H          | HEB              | Limited parking on Summer Weekend   | PAC             |
| Gerle Interpretive                   | 1                               | 5,280                        | 5,360                         | E                 | L          | HB               |   | PAC             |
| Harvest                              | 1                               | 5,220                        | 5,260                         | E                 | M          | HB               |   | PAC             |
| Ice House Bike Trail                 | 3.1                             | 5,400                        | 5,480                         | M                 | L          | HB               |   | PAC             |
| Loon Lake South Shore                | 6.2                             | 6,440                        | 6,600                         | M                 | M          | HEB              | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary   | PAC             |
| South Fork                           | 3.1                             | 3,600                        | 5,000                         | S                 | L          | HE               |   | PAC             |
| Union Valley Bike Trail              | 4.8                             | 4,860                        | 5,160                         | E                 | L          | HB               |   | PAC             |
| <b>Van Vleck Area</b>                |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |   |                 |
| Bassi Loop                           | 4.6                             | 6,200                        | 6,600                         | M                 | M          | HE               |   | PAC             |
| Highland                             | 3.2                             | 6,720                        | 7,960                         | S                 | L          | HE               | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary.  | PAC             |
| Loon Lake                            | 4.5                             | 6,327                        | 6,800                         | M                 | L          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| Red Peak                             | 10.4                            | 6,600                        | 8,160                         | S                 | L          | HE               | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary.  | PAC             |
| Shadow Lake                          | 2                               | 7,080                        | 7,520                         | M                 | L          | HB               | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary.  | PAC             |
| Sun Rock                             | 2                               | 6,080                        | 6,200                         | E                 | L          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| Two Peaks                            | 5.6                             | 6,240                        | 7,600                         | M                 | L          | HE               |   | PAC             |
| <b>Wrights Lake Area</b>             |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |   |                 |
| Beauty Lake                          | 0.5                             | 6,980                        | 7,040                         | E                 | M          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| Bloodsucker                          | 2.3                             | 6,800                        | 7,320                         | EM                | L          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| Lake Loop                            | 1.5                             | 6,960                        | 6,960                         | E                 | M          | HB               |   | PAC             |
| Lyons                                | 5.6                             | 6,680                        | 8,400                         | EM                | H          | HE               | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary.  | PAC             |
| Meadow Loop                          | 1                               | 6,960                        | 6,960                         | E                 | M          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| Rockbound                            | 7.8                             | 6,980                        | 8,600                         | M                 | H          | HE               | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary.  | PAC             |
| Twin Lakes                           | 3.4                             | 6,980                        | 8,000                         | M                 | H          | HE               | Wilderness permit required if crossing boundary.  | PAC             |
| Twin Lakes Tie                       | 0.8                             | 6,960                        | 7,000                         | E                 | M          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| Windmillier                          | 3                               | 6,960                        | 7,000                         | M                 | L          | HEB              |   | PAC             |
| <b>Georgetown Area</b>               |                                 |                              |                               |                   |            |                  |   |                 |
| Bald Mtn. Canyon                     | 1.6                             | 2,460                        | 3,040                         | S                 | L          | H                |   | GTN             |
| Bear Flat Oak                        | 200'                            | 2,800                        | 2,800                         | E                 | L          | H                |   | GTN             |
| Hell Hole                            | 4.3                             | 4,600                        | 4,800                         | M                 | L          | H                |   | GTN             |
| Hunter                               | 10.0                            | 3,500                        | 5,000                         | M                 | M          | HB               | Motorcycles allowed.  | GTN             |
| Kelliher                             | 2.0                             | 2,800                        | 3,000                         | S                 | L          | H                |   | GTN             |
| Lawyer                               | 1.3                             | 3,500                        | 4,300                         | S                 | L          | H                |   | GTN             |
| Mar Det                              | 4.8                             | 2,200                        | 2,800                         | M                 | M          | HE               |   | GTN             |
| Martin                               | 1.6                             | 2,740                        | 3,300                         | M                 | L          | HEB              | Motorcycles allowed.  | GTN             |
| Nevada Point                         | 1.2*                            | 1,800                        | 4,000                         | S                 | L          | HEB              | *Bridge washed out over Rubicon River, 2.3 mi. of trail on other side of river is not accessible. | GTN             |
| One Eye Creek                        | 1.5                             | 1,800                        | 2,800                         | S                 | L          | HE               |   | GTN             |
| Otter Creek                          | 1.4                             | 2,100                        | 2,900                         | S                 | L          | HE               |   | GTN             |
| Sugarloaf                            | 0.8                             | 2,500                        | 3,100                         | S                 | L          | H                |   | GTN             |

# Amador Ranger District

## Carson Pass Area

There is a day-use fee required at the Meiss and Carson Pass Trailheads.

### Lake Margaret

The trailhead is located on the north side of Highway 88 between Kirkwood Inn and Caples Lake. Hiking to Lake Margaret is a moderate 2-½ mile walk. The wildflowers in mid-summer and changing color of aspens in autumn are beautiful.

### Meiss Lake

The trailhead is a parking lot on the north side of Highway 88 immediately west of the Carson Pass Information Center. There is a parking fee required at the Meiss and Carson Pass Parking Areas. Follow the Pacific Crest Trail 1 mile to the ridge. You will experience spectacular views and a brilliant wildflower display about mid-summer. Meiss Lake is another 3 miles from the ridge top.

### Showers Lake

The trail starts at Schneider Camp Road on the north side of Highway 88. The trail climbs to a ridge that surrounds the Meiss lake basin and provides excellent views of Lake Tahoe in the distance. Then the trail drops down to Showers Lake, which is located on the Pacific Crest Trail.

## Silver Lake Area

### Allen Camp

To reach the trailhead from Highway 88 turn south onto Plasse's Resort Road (near the south end of Silver Lake), and go through Plasse's Resort, and follow the road toward the Stockton Municipal Camp for approximately 1/3 mile to the trailhead on the left. The trail climbs steadily through forested and rocky slopes until it joins with the Mud Lake (OHV) Road near Allen Camp. NOTE: This trail is open to motorcycle use.

### Granite Lake

Turn east off Highway 88 at the north end of Silver Lake near the spillway by the Kit Carson Lodge sign (Use extreme caution! The road is very narrow and heavily traveled). Where the road forks, go left. Trailhead parking is located at the end of the road.

The trail ascends and crosses the Creek on a wooden bridge. Approximately ½ mile beyond the bridge is a junction. The right fork will take you to Plasse's and the left fork will take you to Granite Lake. At the southeast end of the lake you will find the trail to Hidden Lake. After traveling about ¾ mile, the trail will fork. The left fork will take you to Hidden Lake and the right fork travels to Plasse's. The trail from Hidden Lake, down to Plasse's, then up to Granite Lake and back to Hidden Lake is a nice 5.3-mile loop.

### Hidden Lake

See Granite Lake description.

### Horse Canyon

The trailhead is located near Oyster Creek about ¾ mile east of Silver Lake on Highway 88. The trail travels through a forested landscape winding through unique volcanic rock outcroppings. Small meadows near the top of the trail are filled with wildflowers in mid-summer. Views of Thimble Peak and Silver Lake are beautiful. A portion of this trail is contained within the Thunder Mountain-Horse Canyon Loop trail. NOTE: *Only the Horse Canyon portion of the trail is open to OHV (motorcycle) use. Please watch for motorbikes and horses.*

### Granite Lake – Allen Camp

See Granite Lake description.

### Scout Carson Lake

Follow the Horse Canyon Trail to the junction near Covered Wagon Peak (5 miles), and take the trail to the right, which leads to Scout Carson Lake.

### Shealor Lake

The trailhead is located on the north side of Highway 88 near Silver Lake, about half a mile east of Plasse's turnout. The trail climbs steadily through open granite and timber for ¾ mile where you will enjoy spectacular views of Silver Lake and Thunder Mountain. The trail then descends to Shealor Lake.

### Thunder Mountain

The trailhead is located on the south side of Highway 88 just west of Carson Spur. The trail traverses along ridge tops offering High Sierra views. The 360-degree panorama from the top of Thunder Mountain is magnificent. The hike from the trailhead to the top of Thunder Mountain is about 3 ½ miles. A portion of this trail is contained within the Thunder Mountain-Horse Canyon Loop trail.

### Thunder Mountain– Horse Canyon Loop

This 10.3 mile loop can be accessed at the Horse Canyon trailhead, Thunder Mountain trailhead, or at the Martin Meadow camping area on the north side of Highway 88 between Silver and Caples Lakes.

The segment of the trail north of Highway 88 is 3.3 miles long and relatively easy. The trail follows a portion of the old highway then climbs gradually up to the ridgeline near Castle Point offering dramatic views of the rugged Caples Creek Canyon and the Crystal Range in the distance. The portion of the trail south of Highway 88 is moderate to difficult, and is comprised of 2.2 miles of the Horse Canyon trail, a 1.6-mile connector to the Thunder Mountain trail, and 3.2 miles of the Thunder Mountain

trail. NOTE: *Only the Horse Canyon portion of the trail is open to OHV (motorcycle) use.*

## Bear River Reservoir

### Devil's Lake

Turn south off of Highway 88 on the Bear River Reservoir Road. Travel approximately 2 miles. At the first signed intersection, take the fork to the right (8N03 – South Shore). At the second and third signed intersections, stay to the left (8N03) and follow the road to a sign that says “Devil's Lake Trailhead.” The trail is a moderate 1 ½ mile hike to the lake. Devil's Lake is one of a few Sierra lakes where leeches may be found.

## Placerville Ranger District

### Highway 50 to 88

### Bryan Meadows

From Highway 50 turn onto the Sierra-At-Tahoe Road (approximately 48 miles east of Placerville) and continue for 2 miles turning right onto Bryan Road (17E13). It is 2 ½ miles to the parking area located at the Sayles Canyon/Bryan Meadows trailhead. Hike one mile up Sayles Canyon trail along Sayles Creek to the junction of Bryan Meadows trail. This trail continues easterly for 3 miles passing through beautiful stands of lodgepole pine and mountain hemlock and skirts the edge of scenic Bryan Meadow just prior to its junction with the Pacific Crest Trail.

### Buck Pasture

From Kyburz, take the Silver Fork Road for 7 miles to the junction with Cody Meadows Road. Proceed on Cody Meadows Road for approximately 5 miles to Negro Flat where a 4-wheel drive road will take you 2 miles farther to the trailhead located in Section 7 of Township, 10N, Range 17E. The trail leads down into Buck's Pasture and continues up along the north ridge of scenic Caples Creek drainage ending at the junction of the Strawberry Canyon jeep trail.

### Caples Creek

Follow the Silver Fork Road from Kyburz for approximately 10 miles turning left just before Fitch Rantz Bridge onto a dirt road, which leads ¼ mile to the trailhead. The trail follows along the north side of Caples Creek through virgin forest, intersecting the Silver Fork trail and continues through beautiful Jake Schneider's Meadow intersecting the Old Silver Lake trail. From this junction, the trail proceeds uphill for nearly one mile where it ends at the junction of Government Meadows trail.

### Cedar Park Trail

From Highway 50 in Pollock Pines follow the Sly Park Road south for approximately 6 miles to the parking area and trailhead on the left (south) side of the road. This trail contains two small paved loops that total about 1.2 miles in length and are set in a nice stand of pine and conifer trees. The trail system is below 4000 feet in elevation and easily accessed year round. The paved trails and mild grades make it ideal for individuals with disabilities.

### Cody Lake

The trailhead is located approximately 7 miles from the small community of Strawberry following the Packsaddle Pass Road from 42 Mile to Section 1, Township 10N, Range 16E. A fairly easy hike leads to this glacier formed lake.

### Fleming Meadow Trail System

From Highway 50 in Pollock Pines follow the Sly Park Road south for approximately 4.5 miles to Jenkinson Lake. Turn left just past the lake on Mormon Immigrant Trail (Forest Route #5). About 1 mile past the second dam turn right onto Blue Gouge Mine Road and follow it ¼ mile to the trailhead. The trailhead is close to the community of Pollock Pines and the elevation of 3,800 feet makes it desirable for early spring and late fall use. The trail system consists of 8.8 miles of dirt roads and trails. The roads have been closed to motor vehicle traffic except by permit. The trails access 1,000 acres of forest and Fleming meadow with abundant wildlife. The area is popular for equestrians, mountain bikes, and hiking with access to Camp Creek.

### Government Meadows

Follow the directions given for the Caples Creek Trail to where it intersects with the Government Meadows trail. This short trail leads around several lush green meadows and ends at picturesque Caples Creek.

### Little Round Top

Turn north off Highway 88 at the Cal Trans Maintenance Station near Caples Lake. Continue for two miles to Schneider's Cow Camp where parking is available. Follow the 4-wheel drive road for ½ mile to the trailhead. The trail leads around Little Round Top through stands of lodgepole and whitebark pine where it ends at the junction of the Pacific Crest Trail. A short cross-country trip to the 9,500 ft. summit of Little Round Top gives hikers a panoramic view of the surrounding Sierras and Caples Lake.

## Lovers Leap

From Highway 50 (1/4 mile west of Strawberry) turn south at the 42 Mile Picnic Area, cross the bridge and take a right following Packsaddle Pass Road for one mile to the junction with Strawberry Canyon Road. Follow Strawberry Canyon Road for 1/2 mile to the trailhead. The trail leads to the top of Lovers Leap (a nationally renowned rock climbing area) for a breathtaking view of the South Fork of the American River drainage. The trail continues on for one mile to Camp Sacramento. Only hiking is allowed on the east side of the trail between Lovers Leap and Camp Sacramento.

## Mount Ralston

Trailhead parking is located across from Camp Sacramento on the north side of Highway 50. The road on the east end of the parking area leads to the trailhead 200 yards away. After the first mile the trail quickly becomes strenuous. Upon reaching the Desolation Wilderness Boundary, it ties into the network of wilderness trails. A magnificent view of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding wilderness can be obtained with a short 1/2 mile hike to the top of Ralston Peak (elev. 9,235). During the summer months be sure to bring along ample drinking water. There are no water sources along the way. **A wilderness permit is required if you cross the wilderness boundary.**

## Old Silver Lake

Follow the directions given for the Caples Creek trail to where it intersects the Old Silver Lake trail at Jake Schneider's Meadow. After crossing Caples Creek (use caution - no bridge), one can hike through mixed stands of virgin pine and fir. Switchbacks ascend the ridge top to where the trail meets the Silver Fork trail coming in from the southwest.

## Pacific Crest Trail

See brochure.

## Pyramid Creek Loop

The trailhead is located on the north side of Highway 50 at Twin Bridges approximately 1/2 mile east of Strawberry. Follow the trail east and then north up to Pyramid Creek and turn right (east) at the sign and follow the trail along the creek. This trail offers beautiful views of the American River canyon, Lovers Leap, waterfalls, and it is an area of special geological interest. Follow the trail north, then loop back south on the old trail bed down the granite slabs and return to Highway 50. The Pyramid Creek Loop trail is located outside of Desolation Wilderness. Note: If you proceed beyond this trail, a wilderness permit is required. To obtain a day use permit self-register at the wilderness boundary.

## Sayles Canyon

Follow the directions for the Bryan Meadows Trail to get to the Sayles Canyon/Bryan Meadows trailhead. A moderate climb back and forth across Sayles Creek for approximately 3 1/2 miles leads to a beautiful mountain park known as Round Meadows. The trail continues through Round Meadows and ascends one mile to join the Pacific Crest Trail at the ridge crest.

## Silver Fork

Follow the directions given for the Caples Creek Trail to where it intersects the Silver Fork trail. The Silver Fork trail begins with a moderate climb. The trail follows along the rapidly descending Silver Creek. The trail levels out and follows the creek past quiet pools and then climbs to the junction of Old Silver Lake trail where the hiker has a splendid view of both Caples Creek and Silver Fork drainages.

## Trestle Trail

Follow the Capps Crossing Road from Grizzly Flat or the North South Road (Forest Route #6) to the dirt road 9N36. Turn south on this road and stay to the right for approximately 1/2 mile to the trailhead. This pleasant foot-trail follows a railroad grade for 1.2 miles to the site of the main bridge (removed) over Steely Fork Creek. The trail is in excellent condition, and passes three collapsed trestles (wooden railroad bridges) on the steep hillside. Return to the trailhead along the same route.

# Pacific Ranger District

## Crystal Basin Recreation Area

### Millionaire Trail to Bassi Falls

From Ice House Road, turn right on road 12N32 just past Big Silver Group Campground. Follow the road to Millionaire Camp where the 2 mile Millionaire trail (15E11) to Bassi Falls begins. This trail winds through forested stands with views of Big Silver Creek on your way to Bassi Falls. This trail is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikes.

### Gerle Creek Trail

Bike or hike this dirt trail between Gerle Creek Campground and the Angel Creek Picnic area. The Gerle Creek Trail (14E21) parallels Gerle Creek through a mixed conifer forest. Both Gerle Creek Campground and Angel Creek Picnic Area are accessed from Highway 50 by taking Ice House Road north. At the junction where Ice House Road turns right toward Loon Lake, continue north on Wentworth Springs Road. Angel Creek Picnic Area is before Airport Flat Campground, and Gerle Creek Campground is past it.

## Harvest

The Summer Harvest Trail (14E23) is an interpretive trail which starts at the Gerle Creek Reservoir Picnic Area near the accessible fishing pier. Signs along this short trail will provide you with local information and history as you travel along the western shore of the reservoir. Along the trail, you will also see large pine and fir trees, marshlands and a creek.

## Ice House Bike Trail

This (dirt) trail can be accessed from any of the campgrounds on Ice House Reservoir or from the intersection of road 12N06 and Ice House Road (200 yards north of the turnoff to Big Hill Lookout). The Ice House Bike Trail (14E01) winds along ridge tops and shaded northern slopes, through dense old growth forest and young tree plantations. There are excellent views of Ice House Reservoir and a few peaks of the Crystal Range through the many trees. The west end of the trail connects to the extensive road system around Big Hill and the east end connects to the road system east of Ice House Reservoir.

## Rubicon Trail

Along the south shore of Loon Lake, a trail open to hikers, bikers, and equestrians shares the name of the famous four-wheel drive trail, the Rubicon. This Rubicon Trail (16E30), however, is not open to motorized vehicles. The first 4 miles of the trail follows the lakeshore. The trail then climbs over the small saddle, becomes increasingly rocky and drops into Rockbound Valley and continues into Desolation Wilderness. The wilderness boundary is approximately 6.2 miles from the trailhead and a wilderness permit is required beyond that point. The Rubicon trail is known for beautiful vistas and panoramas of Loon Lake and the surrounding granite landscape. Access to the trail is from the wilderness trailhead near the Loon Lake Campground.

## South Fork Trail

From the Ice House Road take a left at the South Fork Campground turnoff on road 13N28. Go past the campground entrance and continue on this road for 2.5 miles. Turn left on dirt road 13N84 and the trailhead is approximately 1 mile down the road at a 180-degree curve. The South Fork Trail (14E14) follows the contours of the mountain for the first 1.2 miles with scenic views of the south fork of the Rubicon Canyon and the Crystal Range to the east. The trail then descends into the Rubicon River drainage to the confluence of the Rubicon River and the South Fork Rubicon River where you can find beautiful swimming and fishing holes. This trail is

very steep and dry with many switchbacks. Bring a plenty of drinking water. The trail is open to hikers, equestrians, and mountain biking. No motorized vehicles are allowed. The trail provides access to the Parsley Bar Trail (14E10), also non-motorized, which contours the slope between the South Fork Trail and the motorized Deer Creek Trail (14E11).

## Union Valley Bike Trail

Two segments of the paved Union Valley Bike Trail (14E12) have been completed. The longer section runs between Jones Fork campground and Wench Creek campground, while the shorter segment connects Yellowjacket and Wolf Creek campgrounds. Parking is available at all the campgrounds along the trail with the exception of Lone Rock and Azalea Cove campgrounds. Access to these two campgrounds is by foot, bike or boat. As you travel the trail you will find beautiful views of Union Valley Reservoir and the surrounding forest. Trail bridges cross Big Silver Creek and Tells Creek. Interpretive signs along the trail tell the story of the use and development of water resources in Union Valley.

## Van Vleck Area

### Van Vleck Trailhead

From Highway 50 follow Ice House Road approximately 20 miles to Robbs Saddle. At Robbs Saddle turn east on Cheese Camp Road and follow it east about 6 miles passing a large corral on the right. About 500 yards before the locked gate at Tell's Creek take a right on the dirt road. Ample trailhead parking and primitive camping areas are available 300-400 yards down this road.

### Bassi Loop

From the Van Vleck trailhead parking area head south along the road through the Tells Creek Equestrian camping area to the trailhead sign. The Bassi Trail (15E19) heads south to the Bassi Fork. The trail curves northeast until it connects with the Red Peak Trail (15E08) approximately 1.8 miles west of the wilderness boundary. Turn left (west) and follow the Red Peak Trail to the junction with the Highland Trail (15E21), turn left/southwest to return to the trailhead. This loop is good for hiking, biking, and equestrian use.

### Highland Trail

The Highland Trail (15E21) starts as a dirt road (13N22) beyond the locked gate at Tells Creek, east of the Van Vleck Trailhead. Continue to travel northeast on 13N22/15E21 at trail junction at 0.5 miles where The Red Peak Trail (13N22D/15E08) splits off to the right and a short distance later the Loon Lake Trail (13N22T/15E23)

splits off to the left. Follow 13N22/15E21 0.4 miles to the weather station on the right side of the road. At this point, the Highland Trail (15E21) leaves the road, also to the right (east). The grade is easy for the first 1.5 miles but increases dramatically as you climb toward Tells Peak. Beautiful views of the Crystal Range and surrounding lakes are plentiful from the trail as it leads to Forni Lake. The first 2.5 miles of this trail are outside of the wilderness, beyond that point a wilderness permit is required and bicycles are prohibited.

### **Loon Lake Trail (from Van Vleck)**

From the Van Vleck Trailhead parking area, follow the Highland Trail (15E21) 0.5 miles to an intersection. Continue left past the right/east turn for the Red Peak trail 13N22D/15E08. The Loon Lake Trail (15E23) starts in a short distance as a dirt road (13N22T) on the left/northeast. Follow 13N22T/15E23 along the north fence line of the Van Vleck Ranch, north over a saddle and eventually past a large meadow and across a creek. Approximately 0.4 miles past the creek, the trail splits from the roadbed and continues northward to Loon Lake. Overall the trail climbs steadily with a few short climbs and descents. Along the way watch for scenic overlooks of the South Fork of the Rubicon drainage and Chipmunk Ridge.

### **Red Peak Trail**

From the Van Vleck trailhead, follow the Highland Trail (15E21) east beyond the locked gate at Tells Creek for 0.5 miles where The Red Peak Trail (13N22D/15E08) splits off to the right. The trail continues beyond the end of the 13N22D road. It has an easy grade for the first 1.3 miles but then begins to climb as the trail provides access to Lake No.3, Lake No.5, Lawrence Lake, and Barrett Lake. There are excellent views of the Crystal Basin along the trail. The first 1.3 miles of the trail is outside of the wilderness. The last 3-4 miles are inside the boundary and will require a Desolation Wilderness permit.

### **Shadow Lake Trail**

Follow the directions to the Highland Trail and continue up the trail approximately 0.8 miles to the first main drainage, just before you start the climb up to Tells Peak. The rugged, Shadow Lake Trail (15E22) traverses the west side of the drainage in a northeast direction. The trail intersects an old road approximately 0.4 miles up the drainage and continues north to northeasterly to Shadow Lake with a steady moderate grade. This trail is rough and a topographic map and compass are recommended.

### **Sun Rock Trail**

Follow the directions to the Van Vleck Trailhead. Follow the Bassi Trail (15E19) approximately 0.7 miles to the intersection of the Sun Rock Trail (15E20) on the right (west). The trail heads west and leads you to the southern base of Sun Rock, wrapping around to the western side where it ends. The trail has an easy grade with a few short climbs and descents.

### **Two Peaks Trail**

Follow the directions for the Bassi Trail (15E19) and turn right (south) at the junction with the Two Peaks Trail (16E11) near Bassi Fork. Cross Bassi Fork and head southeast toward Two Peaks. The trail follows the north edge of a large meadow at an easy grade. As it leaves the meadow, the trail becomes steeper and more difficult. Keep an eye out for old blazes on trees marking the trail. The trail climbs beyond the northeast side of Two Peaks at the base but does not go to the top of the peaks. The trail beyond this point is in poor shape and a topographic map and compass are recommended. The trail is maintained to the private property boundary west of the Barrett Lake Jeep Trail.

## **Wrights Lake Area**

**Access:** There are two ways to access Wrights Lake. From Highway 50 approximately 4 miles east of Kyburz, turn left on the Wrights Lake Road/Wrights Road and continue north for 8 miles to the Wrights Lake Campground. At the Campground take the left fork for the Rockbound Trailhead Parking area and the right fork for the Twin Lakes Parking area. The second way is from Highway 50, approximately 10 miles east of Pollock Pines; turn left on Ice House Road. Continue north for 11 miles and turn right on the Ice House/Wrights Lake Tie Road. Follow this road for approximately 8 miles and turn left on the Wrights Lake Road/Wrights Road. The campground will be 2 miles north of this junction.

### **Beauty Lake**

Park at the Rockbound trailhead, and follow the Rockbound Trail (16E08) one half mile to Beauty Lake. Return the same way or make a loop by following the Beauty Lake Trail (16E15) south to the north side of Wrights Lake. At the dirt road (12N24A), turn right and follow the road to the campground tent loop. Turn right on the paved road (12N24) and right again on paved road (11N26) to return to the trailhead. For a longer loop, turn left on the dirt road (12N24A), follow it through the cabin tract until you reach the Twin Lakes Tie Trail (16E17), turn left to return to Beauty Lake, or right to the Wrights Lake Meadow Trail (16E18), which you can follow around the Lake to the Wrights Lake entrance. From there, follow the paved roads back to the trailhead.



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### **Bloodsucker Trail**

The Bloodsucker Trail (16E14) starts at the southern end of the Wrights Lake Equestrian Campground and heads south at an easy grade. The trail merges with an old dirt road and follows it for approximately 0.2 miles. The trail narrows again and climbs for 1.5 miles the trail until it intersects with the Bloodsucker trail. The Bloodsucker trail continues climbing south and intersects with the Lyons Lake trail approx 1.5 miles east of the Lyons Creek trailhead. This trail is recommended for hikers, mountain bicycles and equestrians.

### **Wright's Lake Loop**

Begin at the Twin Lakes Trailhead. Take the Twin Lakes Trail (16E12) a short distance to the Wrights Meadow Trail (16E18). Head north on the Wrights Meadow Trail across the Chappell Crossing Bridge. After crossing the bridge, take the left fork and follow it until it connects with the end of the summer home cabin access road on the north side of the lake. Follow this road counter-clockwise around the lake to the campground tent loop and follow the campground road to the day use area. From here, follow the shoreline to the dam and cross the stream on the road bridge. On the east side of the bridge, turn left onto the Wrights Meadow Trail and follow it along the lake back to the Twin Lakes Trail, turn right to return to the trailhead.

### **Lyons Creek Trail**

Park at the Lyons Creek Trailhead on the Wrights Lake Road. Follow the old roadbed east generally paralleling Lyons Creek through meadows and forested areas. The wildflowers are gorgeous in the early summer. The last 2 miles to Lyons and Sylvia Lakes are inside the Wilderness boundary and require a wilderness permit.

### **Meadow Loop**

Begin at the Twin Lakes Trailhead. Take the Twin Lakes Trail (16E12). In a short follow the Twin Lakes Trail right before the Chappell Crossing Bridge. Travel approximately half mile to the junction with the Twin Lakes Tie (16E17). Turn left and follow the trail to the bridge with wood steps on each end. After crossing the bridge follow the trail to the next intersection. Turn left onto the Wrights Meadow Trail (16E18). This will take you along the west side of the tall grass meadow. You may be surprised to see people paddling through the meadow in the meandering narrow stream channel. Views of the rugged mountain peaks are plentiful from this side of the meadow. Follow the trail back to Chappell Crossing Bridge and the trailhead.

### **Rockbound Trail**

The Rockbound Trail is the main corridor from the Wrights Lake area into the heart of the Desolation Wilderness. To access the trail, park at the Rockbound Trailhead. Follow the directions to Beauty Lake (Trail 16E08). After the trail passes Beauty Lake, you can choose to take the Twin Lakes Tie Trail (16E17) to the Twin Lakes Trail or continue toward Desolation Wilderness. Permits are required beyond the wilderness boundary. This trail offers nice views of the Crystal Range and the Wrights Lake basin. This trail is very dry so bring plenty of drinking water.

### **Twin Lakes Trail**

Begin at the Twin Lakes Trailhead. Take the Twin Lakes Trail (16E12) through the gate and turn right on the trail before the Chappell Crossing Bridge. Obtain a day use permit at the trail sign if you plan to hike into Desolation Wilderness. Signs will lead you around the southeast side of the Wrights meadow area. This is an easy section of the trail with a mild grade. The wildflowers are beautiful in the early summer. Continue on the Twin Lakes Trail east past the junction with the Twin Lakes Tie (16E17). The trail steepens and is moderate to difficult from this point.

Follow the trail approximately 1 mile from the loop trail junction to the Wilderness boundary. A wilderness permit is required beyond this point.

### **Twin Lakes Tie**

Follow the directions to the Rockbound trail (16E08) and turn right onto The Twin Lakes Tie Trail (16E17) approximately 0.25 mile east of Beauty Lake, heading back toward Wrights Lake. Travel 0.4 miles to where the trail meets the Old Corral Loop (16E16) and Wrights Meadow Trail (16E18). Turn right and follow the trail about 75 yards to where the Twin Lakes Tie veers left away from the Wrights Meadow Trail. The trail terminates at the Twin Lakes Trail (16E12).

Turn left to go toward Twin or Grouse Lakes (wilderness permit required) or turn right to return to Wrights Lake via the Twin Lakes Trailhead.

### **Windmill**

The Windmill Trail (15E12) starts across from the wilderness trailhead overflow parking area near the entrance to Wrights Lake. The trail heads west on top of a ridge. The first 1.3 miles of the trail has a mild grade and is easy to follow. The trail gets steeper as it descends into the Jones Fork drainage for approximately 1.3 miles to a dirt road 11N37F. Stay left to follow this road for approximately 0.3 miles to the Wrights Lake Tie road (11N37). The trail is in fair condition and has several scenic views of the Jones Creek drainage and the Crystal Range to the east. It is recommended for hikers, mountain bicycles and equestrians. No motor vehicles are allowed.

# Georgetown Ranger District

## Bald Mountain Canyon

From Wentworth Springs Road, 4 ½ miles east of Georgetown, turn south at Balderston Road. Go South on Darling Ridge Road approximately 2 miles to road 12N89. Go east on 12N89 about 1 mile to where the road ends at the trailhead. This is a steep trail down to Rock Creek. It crosses the creek and continues to Sugarloaf Mountain. The trail accesses fishing, gold panning, and a nice view from Sugarloaf.

## Bear Flat Oak

From Highway 193 in Georgetown, turn on Church Street which turns into Georgia Slide. Turn onto Mameluke down to West Canyon Creek. Go over the creek and follow the road 2.1 miles then turn right uphill onto Bottle Hill Road. Follow Bottle Hill Road 2.3 miles to a gravel path at the trailhead. Follow the trail 200 ft. to a viewing deck overlooking Bear Flat Oak.

## Hell Hole

From Wentworth Springs Road, 22 miles east of Georgetown, turn north on Eleven Pines Road. Continue 28 miles to Hell Hole Dam. The trail starts at the dam on the south side of the reservoir. It is a scenic and rocky walk along the reservoir ending at the Upper Hell Hole Campground and the Rubicon River.

## Hunter

From Wentworth Springs Road, 22 miles east of Georgetown, turn north on Eleven Pines Road and continue 4 miles to the Rubicon River. The trail parallels the river for 10 miles and ends at Hell Hole Reservoir. This is a popular trail and scenic overlook with many fishing and swimming holes. This trail does allow motorized vehicles.

## Kelliher

From Wentworth Springs Road, 3 miles east of Georgetown, turn north on Breedlove Road. Continue 2 miles to Bottle Hill Road and turn left. Continue approximately 1 mile from Bottle Hill Road to Otter Creek and 1.5 miles more to Paymaster Mine Road. Total length of trail is 2.5 miles. Advanced endurance horse riding. This is an old miner's trail to Volcanoville. It goes down to Otter Creek where there once was a Chinese camp and garden, then continues up to Paymaster Mine Road. **As this trail is very steep, equestrians and bicycles are not recommended.**

## Lawyer

From Wentworth Springs Road, 22 miles east of Georgetown, turn north on Eleven Pines Road. Continue approximately 1.4 miles to the trailhead on the Rubicon River. The trail drops into the Rubicon River, ending in a beautiful gorge with a large fishing and swimming hole.

## Mar Det

From Georgetown follow Highway 193 south for 3 1/2 miles to Meadowbrook Road and turn east. The road ends 1 mile in at the trailhead. The trail travels through low elevation mixed conifer forest. It ends at the Darling Ridge Road.

## Martin

From Wentworth Springs Road, 5 ½ miles east of Georgetown, turn south on Balderston road to Mace Mill Road. Continue approximately 2 miles to the only road left (12N31) which ends at the trailhead. This trail is moderately steep down to Rock Creek. It becomes steeper as it continues up the other side to Rock Creek Road. This trail does allow motorized vehicles.

## Nevada Point Trail

From Wentworth Springs Road, 11 miles east of Georgetown, turn north on Volcanoville Road. Go approximately 1.5 miles to Rubicon Road. Turn right and go approximately 2 miles down to an uphill spur road with a signpost with Nevada Point Trailhead on it. Turn right. The road ends shortly at the trailhead. The trail winds down to a footbridge crossing Pilot Creek (1.4 miles). The trail continues another 0.2 mile to the Rubicon River where the bridge is washed out. Dangerous water currents in the Rubicon River at this point make crossing on foot or horse very difficult (not recommended). Across the river the trail is very difficult to follow, with several landslides, fallen timber and the trail is heavily overgrown with brush. The trail ends at Dad Young Springs Road, 1.5 miles up from the Rubicon River.

## One Eye Creek Trail

From Highway 193, about 5 miles south of Georgetown, head east 5 miles on Traverse Creek Rd. About ½ mile past the Bear Creek Picnic Area, turn right on a spur road, continue ½ mile to a 4-way intersection. Continue straight and take the next road to the right, to the trailhead. This trail drops into the Rock Creek drainage with a view of Castle Rocks.

## Otter Creek

From Wentworth Springs Road, 3 miles east of Georgetown, turn north on Breedlove Road. Continue 2 miles to Bottle Hill Road. Continue straight through intersection ½ mile to the trailhead. The trail goes to Otter Creek then crosses and climbs up to Paymaster Mine Road to Volcanoville. **This trail is steep and narrow, bicycles are not recommended.**

## Sugarloaf Trail

From Wentworth Springs Road, 3.5 miles east of Georgetown, turn south at Balderston to Mace Mill Road. Continue to the trailhead at the end of the road. Trailhead sign is located on the north side of the end of the road. The trail drops steeply down to Rock Creek 0.3 of a mile. The trail crosses Rock Creek, ascends a rock face and winds up at Sugarloaf Mountain, with many fallen logs (approximately one mile).