



Round Lake Trail and Round Lake Loop

Plumas National Forest
Beckwourth Ranger District



Trail Description

Round Lake Trail offers two hiking options. Round Lake Trail is a 4.8 mile out and back hike. Round Lake Loop is a 4.0 mile loop returning to the trailhead.

Both hiking options begin with a .8 mile leisurely walk through pine forest, close to snowmelt ponds and abundant wildflowers followed by a .9 mile moderate level uphill walk. This section ends at the site of the Round Lake Mine. Interpretive signs here tell the story of the mine and gold mining in this area. At this point, choose from two trails.

The trail leading uphill and to the south is Round Lake Trail. This is a strenuous .75 mile ascent to the Pacific Crest Trail. Rewards for choosing this option include panoramic views of several lakes and surrounding peaks.

The trail leading downhill and to the west is the Silver Lake - Round Lake Connector part of the Round Lake Loop. From the old mine site it is 2.3 additional miles past six glacially carved alpine lakes to complete the loop. The .9 mile connector skirts the shores of Round and Silver Lakes before intersecting Silver Lake Trail.

Turn right onto Silver Lake Trail and proceed .2 mile to the intersection of Bear Lakes Trail. During this short section is a wonderful view of Long Lake.

Turn right onto Bear Lakes Trail and continue .8 mile past Cub, Little Bear and Big Bear Lakes to meet the Round Lake Connector. Many hikers will cool off in Big Bear Lake.

Just below Big Bear Lake, turn right onto the Round Lake Connector for the .5 mile uphill home stretch returning to the trailhead.

Driving Directions

From Graeagle go south about 1.5 miles on Highway 89. Turn right onto Gold Lake Highway. Drive 8 miles and turn right at Gold Lake Lodge. The trailhead is at the northwest end of the parking area. The upper trail heading south is Round Lake Trail. The lower trail is Round Lake Connector and the end of Round Lake Loop.



Notes

- This trail and loop are open to foot, mountain biking and equestrian traffic
- Do not block traffic when parking
- Pack out all trash
- A restroom is available at the parking area
- Do not drink from naturally occurring water sources without proper water treatment
- Dogs must be under control at all times
- Take along a map
- Stay hydrated, bring plenty of water
- Expect changeable weather
- Backpacking is not allowed

Related Activities

- Many intersecting trails await exploration
- Swimming (cold water)
- Fishing
- Observing wildlife
- Flowers and fall color
- Photography
- Picnic
- Visit Frazier Falls Accessible Trail—a Fee Area
- Petroglyph Interpretive Trail near Lakes Basin Campground

Round Lake Trail And Round Lake Loop

Plumas National Forest

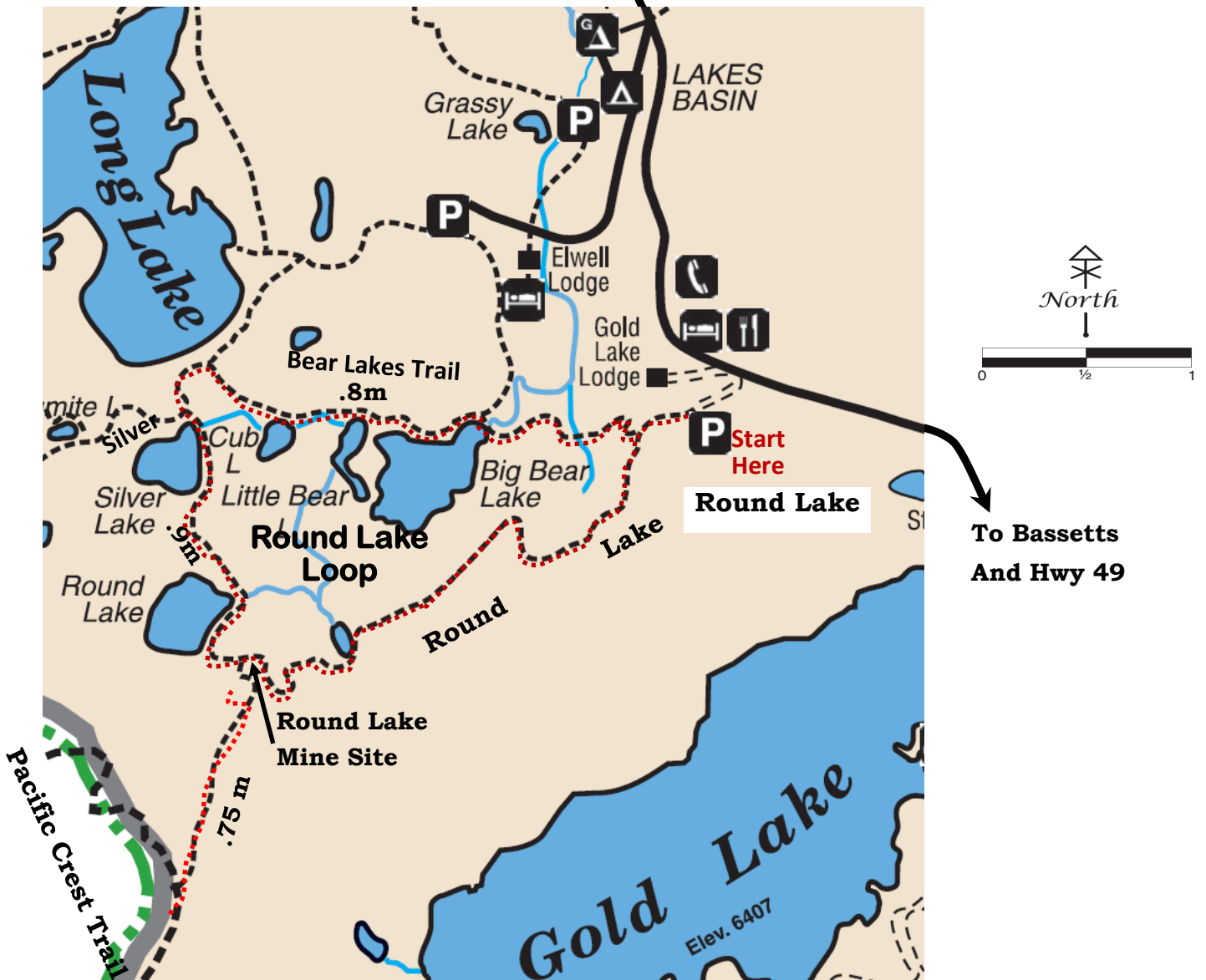
Beckwourth Ranger District

Elevations - Trailhead - 6600', PCT - 7300', Bear Lakes - 5970'

Difficulty - Moderate to Round Lake Mine
- Strenuous from Round Lake Mine to Pacific Crest Trail
- Moderate for the Loop

Usage - Moderate

To Graeagle
and Hwy 89



USDA is an equal opportunity Employer

For more information;

Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region — <https://fsweb.r5.fs.fed.us/>

Plumas National Forest — www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas — (530) 283-2050

Beckwourth Ranger District, PO Box 7, Blairsden, Ca. 96103 — (530) 836-2575

Revised 2/28/2023