



Silver Lake and Mud Lakes Trails

Plumas National Forest
Beckwourth Ranger District



Trail Description

Beautiful Silver Lake is one of the prize gems of the Lakes Basin Recreation Area. Its tree lined shore with many picturesque coves offer ample opportunity for photography, nature watching and solitude. Want adventure? Continue on the trail to expanded horizons.

Trails like Silver Lake Trail and Mud Lake Trail don't get the same respect that trails having a trailhead leading from a parking area have. One must hike another trail to get to the start of these trails. These however are the trails that make Lakes Basin Recreation Area such a popular and diverse hiking area. They connect to other trails so that there is almost always another place or another way to go. With a bit more planning and effort out and back hikes can be turned into loop hikes. And, each loop hike is a different experience when taken in the opposite direction.

This description starts by taking the Bear Lakes Loop Trailhead leading south from the parking area. After a 1.4 mile easy ascent, bear right at the Round Lake Connector and proceed past the three bear lakes. After Cub Lake, the trail ascends to Silver Lake Trail.

Turn left. From here, it's only 100 yards to a grand view of Long Lake and .25 mile more to Silver Lake. At Silver Lake, the trail to the left is the Round Lake-Silver Lake Connector. Stay on Silver Lake Trail as it gets steeper ascending 2 miles to meet with the Pacific Crest Trail. At about 1.2 miles from Silver Lake, the Mud Lake Trail intersects from the right. This is a beautiful 1.2 miles hike along granite terraces with views of Mud Lake before meeting with Mt. Elwell Trail.

Driving Directions

From Graeagle go south about 1.5 miles on Highway 89. Turn right onto Gold Lake Highway. Drive 5 miles and turn right at Lakes Basin Campground. Continue past the campground. The trailheads and parking area are at the end of the road. Trailers and large vehicles are not allowed.



Notes

- Open to foot, biking and equestrian traffic
- Narrow winding access road not suited to large vehicles and trailers
- Do not crush brush or block traffic when parking
- Pack out all trash
- A restroom is available at the parking area
- Seasonal drinking water is usually 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
- Dress for changing weather conditions
- Bicycles and other wheeled vehicles are not permitted on the Pacific Crest Trail

Related Activities

- Many intersecting trails await exploration
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Bird Watching
- Observing Wildlife
- Photography
- Picnic

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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

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