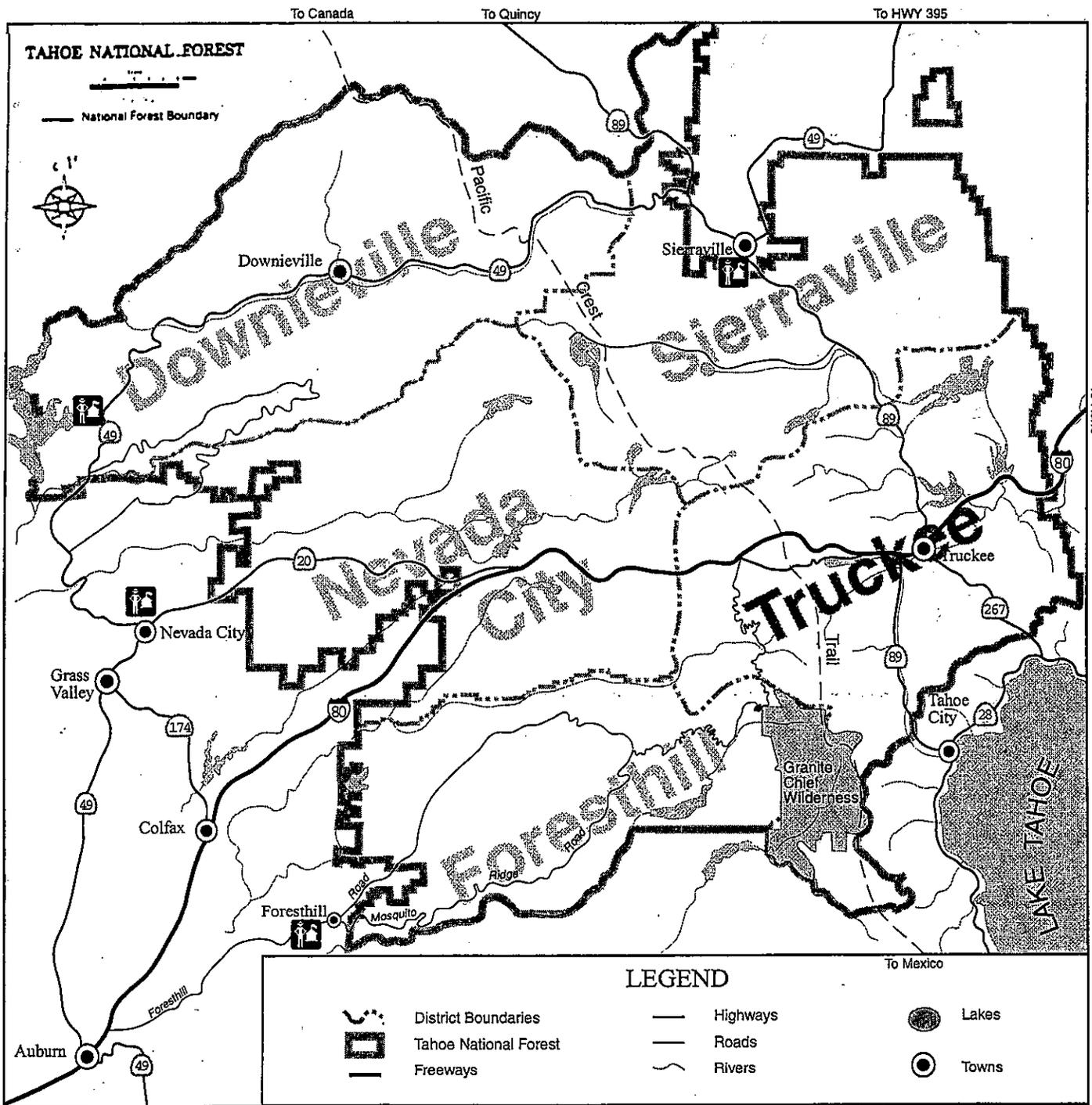


Trails - Truckee Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



To Sacramento To Placerville

To Canada

To Quincy

To HWY 395

To Reno

To Mexico

Trails – Truckee Ranger District

Tahoe National Forest



Welcome

From the heights of the Sierra Buttes to the solitude of the American River Canyon, visitors to the Tahoe National Forest will be rewarded with beautiful scenery, occasional glimpses of wildlife, and trails suited to every taste and ability. Some of the trails have been used for thousands of years by Indians and, in more recent times, by miners traveling to and from their claims. The trails have been built and maintained to help you explore and enjoy the Tahoe National Forest - but please do so with care.

Keep the Back Country Beautiful

Over five million visitor days are spent exploring the Forest each year, so it is important to minimize impacts while using the trails.

Remember the motto: **Pack-it-in pack-it-out.** It takes from four months to thirty years for trash to decompose. Littering has always been a problem in the Forest and currently the Forest Service has few personnel to manage our trails. There are no trash bins in the back country, so please carry out what you bring in.

Stay on trails and don't cut switchbacks.

Pets must be kept under control.

Seasons of Use ... Be Prepared

Summers in the Forest are hot and dry, and campgrounds are frequently full. Spring and fall are ideal times to beat the heat and the crowds. However, the cooler temperatures also bring occasional snow or rain showers.

Plan properly, even for short day trips. Let someone know where you are going and when you will return. Always take the "ten essentials, - extra food and water, clothing, map, dark glasses, compass, first aid kit, waterproof matches or lighter, flashlight, and knife. Since weather in the mountains is so changeable, you should have clothing that will keep you warm and dry. Bring along a waterproof poncho and warm outer clothing. Although the valley swelters in summer, nights in the Sierra can be very cold.

Maps and More Maps

Recreation maps of the Forest can be purchased at any Ranger Station. For backcountry travel, topographic maps are recommended. They can be purchased from most sporting goods stores in the area.

If Lost

If you are lost: take it easy, keep calm, and don't panic. Sit down and try to figure out where you

are. Use your head - not your legs. As you hike try to be aware of prominent landmarks. These will help you find your way back. Carry a whistle for emergency use. Three of anything (shouts, whistles, etc.) are a sign of distress.

Trail Wise

It is never wise to travel alone, but if you must - stick to frequently used trails in case you become sick or injured. An illness which is normally minor can become serious at higher elevations. If you get sick, try to get out of the mountains, or at least to a lower elevation, while you can still travel.

Poison oak grows most often in wooded canyons up to about 5000 feet in elevation. It is a beautiful green plant in summer, turns red in the fall, and loses its leaves in the winter. Learn to identify its changing appearance throughout the year.

Rattlesnakes, an important predator in the mountain ecosystem, may be found up to 9000 feet in elevation.

Smokey Says

At certain times of the year the danger of wildfire is high. During these times building campfires and smoking may be restricted in some areas. Before you leave, check with a Forest Service Ranger Station for current fire danger conditions. Beginning around May 1 a campfire permit is required for all campfires and stoves outside developed campgrounds. The permits are valid until the end of the year issued.

If you wish to smoke, stop and clear an area three feet in diameter down to bare mineral soil before lighting up. Crush out your smoke completely in the bare soil. Be sure to pack the remains out.

The Water May not be Safe

For day trips, carry sufficient water from home. Water from Sierra streams or lakes may be contaminated with an organism called 'Giardia lamblia'. Drinking untreated water can make you quite ill. If you do drink water from streams or lakes, be sure to boil it for three to five minutes.

Private Land

Many parcels of private land will be found within the National Forest boundary. Please respect the rights of landowners.



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Rev 10-00

Glacier Meadow Loop Trail - Donner Summit Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

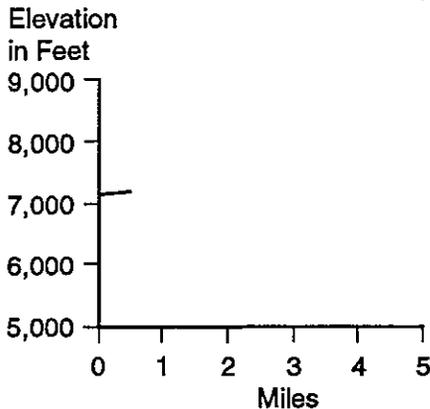


General Information

Mileage: 0.5 mile loop
Elevation: 7200-7200 feet
Difficulty: Very easy
Use Level: Very heavy
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Norden

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all of these trails.
Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access

Unattended parking is not permitted at the Interstate 80 rest areas on Donner Summit. To access the trails in the Donner Summit area there is a Forest Service trailhead, with restrooms and water. To reach the trailhead take the Castle Peak Area/Boreal Ridge Road exit, which is immediately west of the highway's Donner Summit Roadside Rest Area. On the south side of the highway there is a sign reading:

Tahoe National Forest Trailhead
Donner Summit
Pacific Crest Trail

Follow the directions on the sign turning east for .4 mile to the trailhead. This trailhead provides access to the following trails: Pacific Crest Trail, north and south; Glacier Meadow Loop (15E32); Summit Lake (15E09); Warren Lake (14E24); and Sand Ridge Lake (14E11).

Trail Description

This very short trail begins and ends at the eastbound 1-80 rest stop at Donner Summit. It can be reached either from the Pacific Crest Access Trail (15E18) or from the rest stop.

Glacier Meadow Loop Trail (15E32) offers a relaxing half hour stroll.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Coldstream Trail - DonnerSummit Area

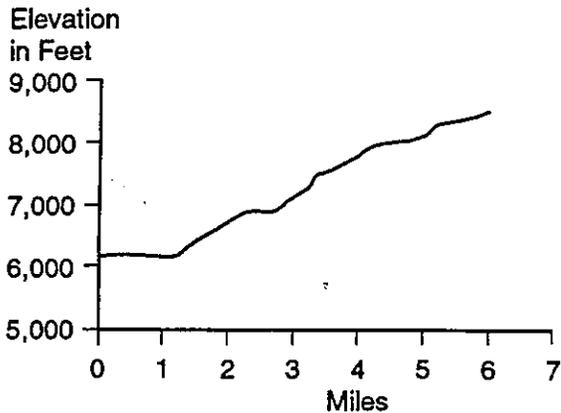
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 6.0 miles one way
Elevation: 6,200-8,600
Difficulty: Difficult
Use level: Light
Topo. Maps: Norden, Granite Chief
Motorized vehicles are not permitted on any of these trails. Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access

From Interstate-80 take the Truckee/Donner State Park exit, which is west of Truckee. Drive to the "76" gas station and follow the paved road for 0.4 mile to where the pavement ends and the road forks. Take the left fork (the gate should be unlocked), and drive 0.1 mile to another fork in the road—take the right fork. There is another gate to drive through 0.4 mile down this road. Three miles past this gate is a 180 degree bend of the Union Pacific Railroad. This is the end of the road. Do not attempt to cross the railroad tracks with a vehicle.

The parking area and first three miles of trail are located on private property. Please remain on designated roads and trail sections, and respect the landowner's property rights.

Trail Description

This trail offers two options for a hike. One could either climb Tinker Knob and return on the same trail, or hike eleven miles to the Granite Chief trailhead in Squaw Valley. (Transportation would need to be arranged if you're planning a one way trip).

The first 1.5 miles of trail are on a four wheel drive road following the South Fork of Cold Creek. The road ends at the National Forest boundary. From here the trail begins to climb, crossing the South Fork of Cold Creek and several other streams. After a steady climb for approximately two miles, the trail again becomes a four wheel drive road for 0.5 mile until it reaches an open ridge. At this point, the road veers off to the left (east) and the actual trail heads south for 0.25 mile to a junction with the Pacific Crest trail (PCT). (At this point, bicyclists must return, as wheeled vehicles are not permitted on the PCT).

Tinker Knob is a short, easy, 0.25 mile hike from the junction, and offers an impressive 360 degree view from an elevation of 8,950 feet.

Hikers taking the trek to Squaw Valley will turn south at the PCT junction and follow the trail along the ridge for 2.5 miles to the Granite Chief trail junction. Along the way, you will pass the Painted Rock trail. From this junction, the Granite Chief trail descends into Squaw Valley.

Please note that bicycles are not permitted on the Pacific Crest trail.

Drinking Water

Water is often unavailable on this route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to use a backpacker's water filter.

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Lower Lola Montez Lake Trail - Donner Summit Area

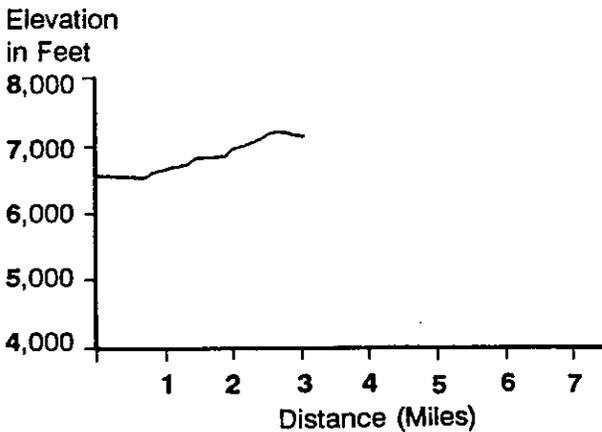
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

General Information

Mileage: 3.0 miles one way
Elevation: 6640-7200 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Use Level: Light
Season: June-September
Topographic Map: Soda Springs

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all of these trails.
Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access

Take the Soda Springs exit off Interstate 80. On the north side of the freeway follow the paved road east past the fire station for three-tenths mile to the parking area.

Trail Description

Since much of the trail is over private property, hikers are requested to stay on the trail and observe the property rights of the landowner. From the trailhead follow the trail north for ¼ mile to a road. The road will take you to the Lower Castle Creek crossing (Lower Castle Creek causes some wet feet in early season). The trail veers to the right ¼ mile after the creek crossing, and then climbs for another ¼ mile, where it ties in with the road again. For the next mile, under a canopy of beautiful forest, the road gently ascends. At the end of the road, which is also the beginning of the "Motor Vehicle Restricted Area," the trail leads to an open, flat meadow. From there it is ¼ mile to Lower Lola Montez Lake. There are campsites around the lake and fishing is relatively good.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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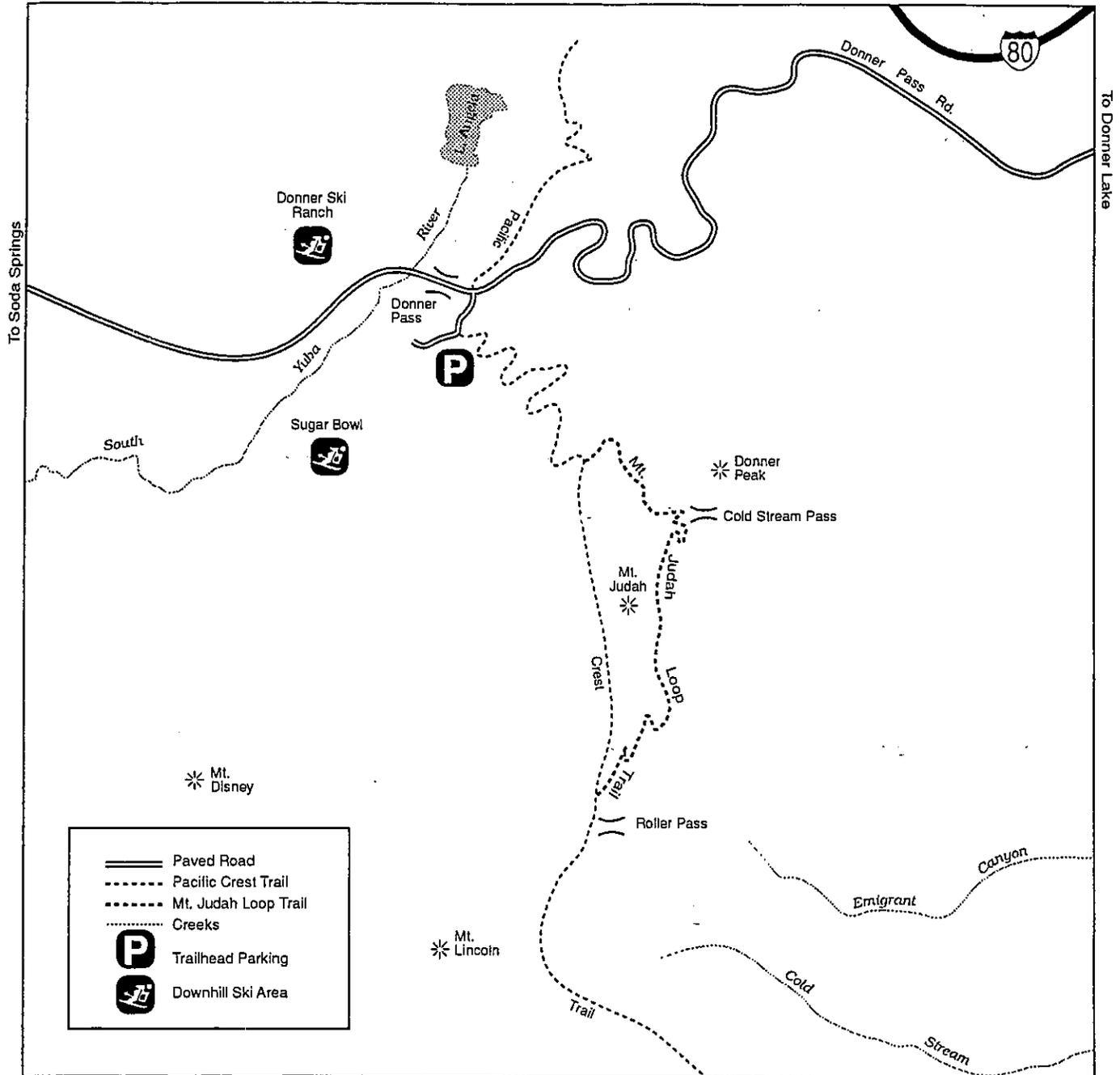
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rev.4/93

Mt. Judah Loop Trail - Donner Summit Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



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Mt. Judah Loop Trail - Donner Summit Area

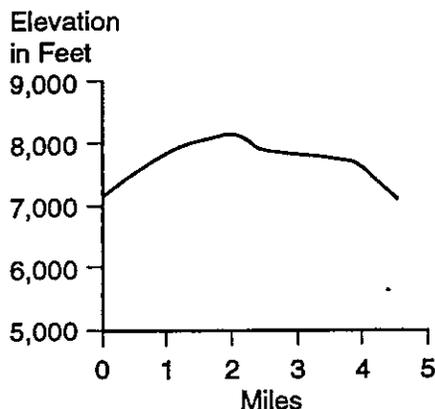
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 4.5 miles round trip
Elevation: 7200-8245
Difficulty:  (Moderate)
Use level: Heavy
Topographic Map: Norden 7.5'

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

The Mt. Judah loop trail is accessed off the Pacific Crest Trail south of old Hwy. 40. From Hwy. 40, east of Donner Ski Ranch, turn onto the road before Alpine Skills Institute and begin the hike on the Pacific Crest Trail heading south.

Description

The PCT south starts by climbing steeply up a granite headwall then flattens and follows the contours of the mountain, climbing moderately.

Approximately one mile from Donner Pass, turn left onto the Judah loop trail. The trail gently climbs to an existing jeep road near Coldstream Pass (between Mt. Judah and Donner Peak). Turn left onto this scenic jeep road. Almost immediately you enter a very wet area which in the spring and early summer is lush with magnificent wildflowers. Continue to climb to the saddle. The trail begins again on the southside of the road at the saddle and climbs the northeast face of Mt. Judah.

The vantages rewarding the hike during the climb up Mt. Judah are spectacular: Mt. Rose, Truckee, Donner Lake and in the immediate foreground Coldstream Canyon. Mid-summer the east face of Mt. Judah is dotted with the exquisite rose purple color of the Rock Fringe flowers. The trail then meanders along the crest of Mt. Judah offering outstanding views of some of the prominent peaks in the area. Anderson Peak, Tinker Knob are both located to the south and Castle Peak and the Sierra Buttes to the north. The trail leaves the crest and gently descends to a point just North of Roller Pass where the loop connects with the PCT again.

Roller Pass is a significant point on the Overland Emigrant trail. Signs tell the story of early settlers and the difficulties they encountered at this point on their trek west. Turn right onto the PCT to complete the hike heading back north, to Donner Pass on Old Highway 40.

Drinking Water

Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.

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Painted Rock Trail - Donner Summit Area

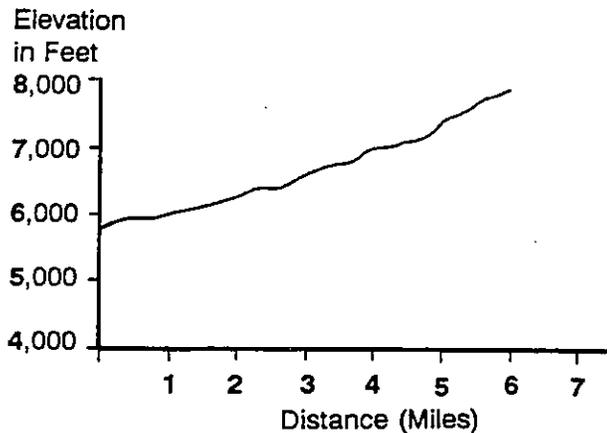
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

General Information

Mileage: 6.0 to the Pacific Crest Trail
Elevation: 5800-7600 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Use Level: Very light
Season: June-September
Topographic Map: Granite Chief, Tahoe City

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all of these trails.
Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access:

90% of this trail is on private land. There is **no parking available** in the vicinity of "The Cedars" or the trailhead. The trail can only be used if **hikers are dropped off** at the trailhead.

Take the Soda Springs/Norden exit off Interstate 80. Drive east on Old Highway 40 for .8 mile. Turn south on Soda Springs Road and follow it past Ice Lakes (also known as Serene Lakes) to where the pavement ends. Follow the unpaved road south 4.1 miles to where it forks. Take the left fork, which crosses Onion Creek and passes some homes in The Cedars. The

road makes a 90 degree bend 2.5 miles past the fork. There is a private road which joins the main road at this bend. This is the actual trailhead. As indicated, there is no parking permitted in this area.

Trail Description:

Follow the private road for 1.5 mile to Old Soda Springs (it will cross a bridge along the way). The trail passes some homes and gently ascends through some old ponderosa pines and incense cedars. Approximately 2 miles past Old Soda Springs, the trail crosses the North Fork of the American River. Caution needs to be exercised when crossing the river during high water. For the next mile, the trail stays fairly flat, passing an area of old aspen trees. From here the trail climbs toward the Sierra Crest. At the crest the trail joins the Pacific Crest Trail. Possible destinations which can be reached by following the Pacific Crest Trail or some of the spur trails in the area include Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, Coldstream Valley and Highway 40.

Mountain Meadow Lake is on private land. There is no public right-of-way to this lake.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Palisade Creek Trail - Donner Summit Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 7 miles to American River
Elevation: 6600-4400 feet
Difficulty: Very Difficult
Use level: Moderate
Season: June-October
Topo. Maps: Soda Springs, Royal Gorge

Motorized vehicles and horses are prohibite.
Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access

Take the Soda Springs/Norden exit off Interstate 80 and follow Old Highway 40 east for .8 mile to Soda Springs Road. Turn south and follow the road for another .8 mile to Pahatsi Road, which will be on your right. Pahatsi Road will be paved for about .2 mile. When it turns into a dirt road the name will change to Kidd Lakes Road. Follow the dirt road for 1.5 miles to where it forks. Do not take the road to Palisade Lake/Camp Winther; but continue straight ahead for 2.5 miles (you will pass Kidd Lake on your left). The trailhead is on the north side of Cascade Lakes.

Trail Description

Because of its' steep climbs, this trail is for the hiker who is looking for a real challenge. There are some ideal spots along the way for overnight camping.

The first two miles of the trail are relatively flat, passing through areas of glacier-polished granite and along a small tranquil lake surrounded by old timber stands. The trail then descends down some switchbacks to reach the Palisade Creek Bridge. The Palisade Trail continues to descend to the bridge which crosses the American River, 4400 feet in elevation. Beyond the bridge the trail is not maintained. It immediately climbs back up to 4800 feet with a series of switchbacks and ends at a large landslide.

Hikers should note that much of the trail is on private land. Hikers are requested to observe the rights of the landowners.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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PCT South of Hwy. I-80 to Mount Judah - Donner Summit Area

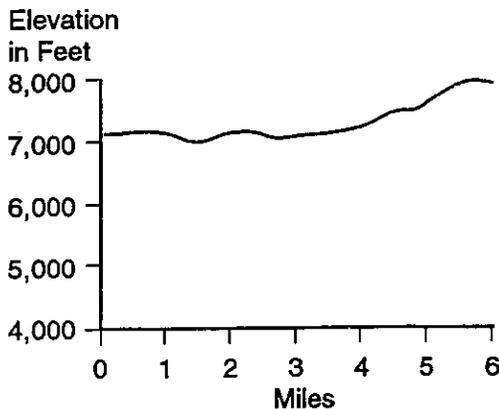
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 6.0 miles one way
Elevation: 7200-7000-8243 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Use Level: Heavy
Season: July-October
Topographic Map: Norden

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

Unattended parking is not permitted at the Interstate 80 rest areas on Donner Summit. To access the trails in the Donner Summit area there is a Forest Service trailhead, with restrooms and water. To reach the trailhead take the Castle Peak Area/Boreal Ridge Road exit, which is immediately west of the highway's Donner Summit Roadside Rest Area. On the south side of the highway there is a sign reading:

Tahoe National Forest Trailhead
Donner Summit
Pacific Crest Trail

Follow the directions on the sign, turning east for .4 mile to the trailhead. To reduce the hike by 3.5 miles, the PCT can be accessed off Hwy 40 just beyond Donner Ski Ranch.

Trail Description

From the trailhead follow the Pacific Crest Access Trail .5 mile to the PCT. The first leg of the hike (to Donner Pass) is a rather easy 3.5 miles providing several views of Donner Lake and the I-80 area. All along this segment huge boulders of smooth granite bear evidence of the glacial ice which shaped the terrain thousands of years ago. This segment also provides rock climbers easy access to some challenging cliffs.

After the trail crosses Old Highway 40 it follows the road directly opposite the trail for about 200 yards then continues off the road to the southeast. The trail starts a steep climb up a granite headwall then flattens and follows the contour of the mountain, climbing moderately. This portion of the trail provides nice views of Lakes Mary and Angela to the north and Lake Van Norden to the west.

Approximately 1 3/4 miles from Donner Pass the trail crosses Roller Pass, a significant point on the Overland Emigrant Trail. Signs at the pass tell the story of early California settlers and the difficulties they encountered at this point on their trek west.

From Roller Pass hikers can return via the PCT or via the Mt. Judah Loop Trail. The loop trail offers a rewarding view of Donner Lake, the Truckee and some of the dominant peaks such as Anderson, Castle Peaks, and the more distant Sierra Buttes.

Camping spots are available but somewhat limited along this segment of the PCT.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Sand Ridge Lake Trail via PCT - Donner Summit Area

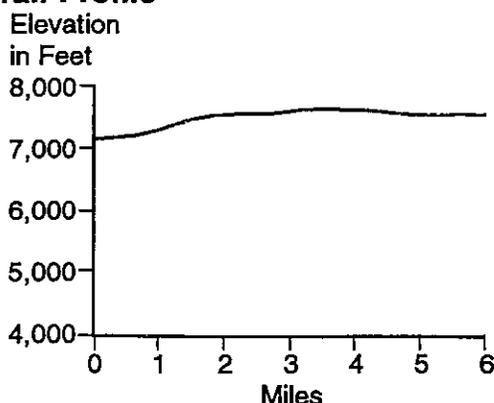
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 6.0 miles one way
Elevation: 7200-7880-7760 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Use Level: Heavy
Season: June-October
Topographic Maps: Soda Springs, Webber Peak

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

Unattended parking is not permitted at the Interstate 80 rest areas on Donner Summit. To access the trails in the Donner Summit area there is a Forest Service trailhead, with restrooms and water. To reach the trailhead take the Castle Peak Area/Boreal Ridge Road exit, which is immediately west of the highway's Donner Summit Roadside Rest Area. On the south side of the highway there is a sign reading:

Tahoe National Forest Trailhead
Donner Summit
Pacific Crest Trail

Follow the directions on the sign turning east for .4 mile to the trailhead.

Trail Description

The Sand Ridge Lake Trail (14E11) is a relatively short trail, covering a distance of 1.5 miles between the intersection with the Pacific Crest Trail near Peter Grubb Hut and the lake. However, it is a 4 mile hike from the trailhead to the hut on the PCT.

From the trailhead follow the Pacific Crest Access Trail (15E18) 0.5 mile to the PCT. Turn north on the PCT and follow the trail 0.5 mile through the tunnel under I-80. Shortly after the underpass you will come to the intersection with the Summit Lake Trail. Continue north on the PCT.

The trail begins a moderate ascent through a nicely forested area and climbs gradually for 3 1/4 miles to Castle Pass at an elevation of 7880 feet. After the pass the trail begins an 0.5 mile descent into Round Valley where the Peter Grubb Hut is located.

This hut is one of several Sierra Club cabins in the Sierra Nevada. Primarily an emergency shelter, the hut is open for public use. Hikers who wish to use the hut overnight should contact the Sierra Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge (916) 426-3632 for reservations.

Continuing the hike, just 200 yards north of the Peter Grubb Hut the intersection with the Sand Ridge Lake Trail takes off to the west. Over a distance of 1.5 miles the trail descends slightly and passes through open forest and several small meadows before reaching the small, tranquil Sand Ridge Lake. The lake offers nice campsites and an enjoyable place for a refreshing swim. Fishing is not very promising.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Summit Lake Trail - Donner Summit Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



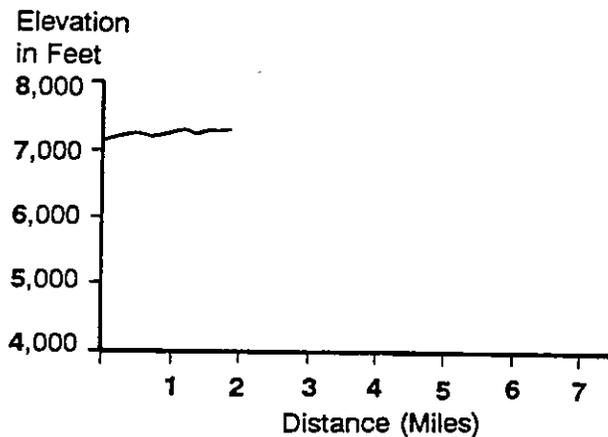
General Information

Mileage: 2.0 miles one way

Elevation: 7200-7400 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Use Level: Heavy
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Norden

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all of these trails. Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access

Unattended parking is not permitted at the Interstate 80 rest areas on Donner Summit. There is a Pacific Crest Trail trailhead at Donner Summit. To reach this trailhead take the Castle Peak Area/Boreal Ridge Road exit, which is immediately west of the highway's Donner Summit Roadside Rest Area. On the south side of the highway there is a sign reading:

Tahoe National Forest Trailhead
Donner Summit
Pacific Crest Trail

Follow the directions on the sign, turning east for .4 mile to the trailhead. This trailhead provides access to

the following trails: Pacific Crest Trail, north and south; Glacier Meadow Loop (15E32); Summit Lake (15E09); Warren Lake (14E24); and Sand Ridge Lake (14E11).

Trail Description:

For the first mile this hike follows the Pacific Crest Access Trail (15E18) in an easterly direction and then follows the Pacific Crest Trail for another mile in a northerly direction, passing through a tunnel under I-80. Shortly after the underpass the intersection with the Summit Lake Trail (15E09) is clearly marked.

The trail climbs moderately and crosses two small creeks, which are separated by a low, glaciated, granitic ridge. Beyond this the trail arcs through a meadow which is full of many beautiful wildflowers from spring through late summer. The trail continues past the intersection with the Warren Lake Trail, veering to the right and out to the edge of a bald, descending ridge. From here, under a delightful forest cover, it is a brief hike to the south corner of the lake. Summit Lake is populated with eastern brook and rainbow trout. Camping is available at the lake.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Warren Lake Trail - Donner Summit Area

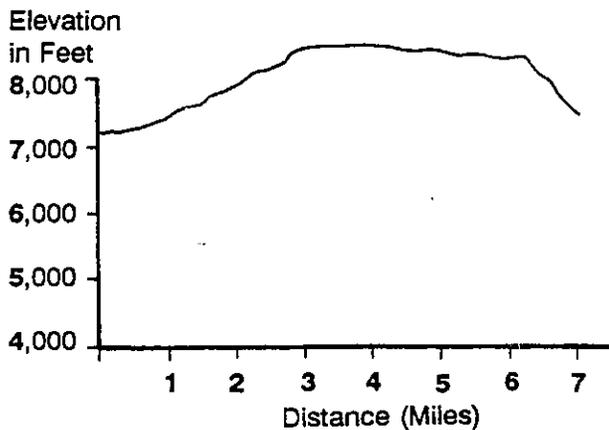
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

General Information

Mileage: 7.0 miles one way
 Elevation: 7200-8570-7200 feet
 Difficulty: Very difficult
 Use Level: Light
 Season: July-October
 Topographic Maps: Norden, Independence

Motorized vehicles are prohibited on all of these trails. Campfire permits are required.

Trail Profile



Access

Unattended parking is not permitted at the Interstate 80 rest areas on Donner Summit. To access the trails in the Donner Summit area there is a Forest Service trailhead, with restrooms and water. To reach the trailhead take the Castle Peak Area/Boreal Ridge Road exit, which is immediately west of the highway's Donner Summit Roadside Rest Area. On the south side of the highway there is a sign reading:

Tahoe National Forest Trailhead
 Donner Summit
 Pacific Crest Trail

Follow the directions on the sign for .4 mile to the trailhead. This trailhead provides access to the following trails: Pacific Crest Trail, north and south; Glacier Meadow Loop (15E32); Summit Lake (15E09); Warren Lake (14E24); and Sand Ridge Lake (14E11).

Trail Description

The hike to Warren Lake can be challenging. From the trailhead the first 1½ miles follows the route noted

in the Summit Lake Trail description. Approximately 1 mile beyond the Pacific Crest/Summit Lake Trail intersection is the start of the Warren Lake Trail (14E24). This trail begins with an ascent through a pleasant alpine forest consisting of lodgepole pine, red fir, and mountain hemlock. Beyond the forested area the trail crosses a saddle (8570 feet in elevation) with spectacular views.

From this ridge the trail begins a 3½ mile descent into the valley alongside the northeastern slopes of Castle Peak and Basin Peak. In this area the trail traverses a unique glaciated basin which offers a sense of backcountry remoteness rarely found in the Tahoe Sierra. Watch for the huge, dark-layered volcanic rocks and the underlying granite rocks. There are also many creeks to cross, with spectacular displays of subalpine wildflowers.

After reaching another saddle the trail begins a quick descent of some 1000 feet and winds steeply down toward Warren Lake.

On the western side of the lake there are a number of inviting campsites with opportunities for fishing, rock climbing, or just taking a well-deserved rest. Since the trail is rather strenuous and fairly long, it is recommended the hiker consider this a two-day hike. Warren Lake is an ideal destination for a hiker who is looking for an out-of-the-way camping experience and who recognizes the challenge this trail offers. It should be noted that snow may cover parts of this trail until the end of July.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Hole In The Ground Trail - Donner Summit Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

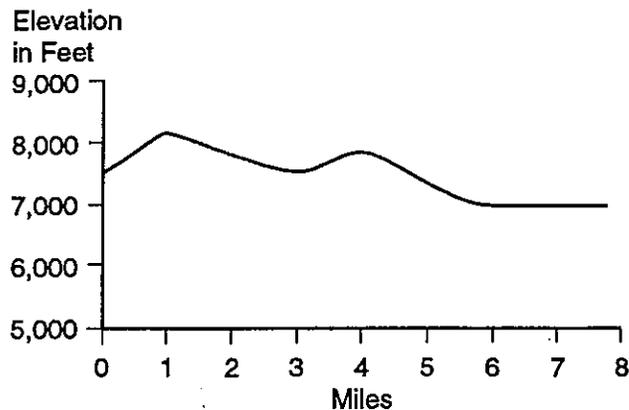


General Information

Mileage: 7.8 miles one way
Elevation: 7200-8000
Difficulty: moderate for hikers, difficult for bicyclists
Use level: moderate
Topo. Maps: Norden, Independence Lake, Soda Springs, Webber Peak

(Trail is new therefore it is not shown on all maps.)

Trail Profile



Note:

Although this trail is open to horses, this use is discouraged on the first three miles of trail. It is recommended that equestrians access this area by taking the Pacific Crest Trail to the Sand Ridge trail, and the Sand Ridge trail to Hole in the Ground.

Access

Take Interstate-80 to the Castle Peak exit. Head north on the Castle Peak road approximately 1.5 miles. High clearance vehicles are recommended on this road. The trail starts on the left (west) side of the road.

The trail can also be accessed at the Lower Lola Montez Lake trailhead. This trailhead is accessed by taking the Soda Springs exit off Interstate 80. On the north side of the freeway, follow the paved road east past the fire station for approximately 0.3 miles. The trail starts on the north side of the road.

Bicyclists wishing to complete a loop can ride from Castle Valley up the Hole in the Ground trail and down the Lola Montez trail to the paved road. Cross under the freeway, and ride east on old Donner Pass road for 1 1/2 miles. Turn left at Norden Snow Lab and follow the dirt road 2 miles back to Boreal. From Boreal, cross under the freeway again to access Castle Valley.

Description

The trail climbs steadily from the Castle Valley Road to the top of Andesite Ridge. This requires technical skill and strength on a bike. From the ridge, the trail descends through an old growth red fir forest and crosses Castle Creek before reaching the junction of the Sand Ridge trail. The Sand Ridge trail heads east from here to the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). Hikers may wish to return to Castle Valley via the PCT from this point, however, the PCT is closed to bicycle use.

The Hole in the Ground trail continues to the intersection of a short spur trail to Sand Ridge Lake. This is a lovely, yet fragile high elevation lake which makes an ideal lunch spot. You are welcome to explore the lakeshore by foot but please park your bike on the trail to avoid damaging the lakeshore.

Drinking Water

Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes.

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Granite Chief Trail - Squaw Valley Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest

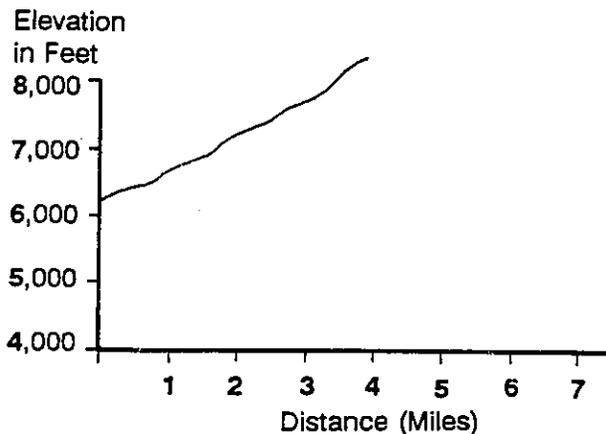


General Information

Mileage: 3.5 miles one way
Elevation: 6280-8200 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Use Level: Moderate-Heavy
Season: June-September
Topographic Map: Tahoe City, Granite Chief

ski lift buildings and under no condition use any of the parking spaces around the fire station. The trailhead is located on the east (right) side of the fire station and is clearly marked.

Trail Profile



Trail Description

From the fire station, the trail climbs up the canyon to follow the creek for a short ways. It then turns to the right, moves away from the creek and ascends up the mountain under a canopy of Jeffrey pines and white firs. Squaw valley can now be seen below and as more elevation is gained, Lake Tahoe slowly comes into view. The Pacific Crest Trail junction is just up the trail from this point. From the junction the choice can be made to take the PCT south towards Twin Peaks or north towards Tinkers Knob.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

Access

From Interstate 80 west of Truckee, take the South Lake Tahoe exit and follow Highway 89 south for 8.5 miles to the Squaw Valley junction. (If you are coming from Lake Tahoe, take Highway 89 north from Tahoe City for 5 miles.) Turn west on Squaw Valley Road and drive 2.2 miles to the Squaw Valley Fire Station. Hikers must use the large parking area in front of the

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PCT No. of Squaw Valley to Tinkers Knob - Squaw Valley Area

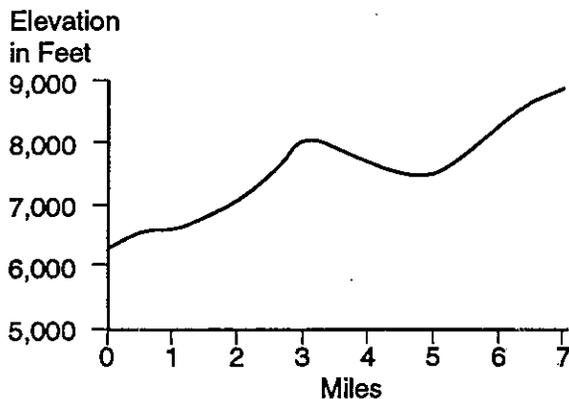
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 7.0 miles one way
Elevation: 6240-8760 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Use Level: Light
Season: July-October
Topographic Map: Tahoe City & Granite Chief

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 west of Truckee, take the South Lake Tahoe exit and follow Highway 89 south for 8.5 miles to the Squaw Valley junction. (If you are coming from Lake Tahoe, take Highway 89 north from Tahoe City for 5 miles.) Turn west on Squaw Valley Road and drive 2.2 miles to the Squaw Valley Fire Station. Hikers must use the large parking area in front of the ski lift buildings and under no condition use any of the parking spaces around the fire station. The trailhead is located on the east (right) side of the fire station and is clearly marked.

Trail Description

Take the Granite Chief Trail from Squaw Valley to where it connects with the PCT. From that junction to Tinker Knob, it is 3.5 miles. The trail winds around and makes some switchbacks along the crest of the mountains. At 1.5 miles it passes the Painted Rock Trail and continues on its way to pass by the headwater of the North Fork of the American River. Between there and the switchbacks up to the Tinker Knob Saddle there are two springs which usually have water flowing from them. It is just a short climb from the saddle up to the top of Tinker Knob which is 8950 feet above sea level. An impressive 360 degree panoramic view is the reward for this hike. Hikers with ambition and who can arrange transportation may want to extend their hike by taking either the Cold Stream Trail down to its trailhead (3.5 miles) or hike the PCT to Donner Pass on the old Highway 40 (7.0 miles).

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, pond, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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PCT South of Squaw Valley to Twin Peaks - Squaw Valley Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 14.5 miles one way

Elevation: 6560-8800 feet

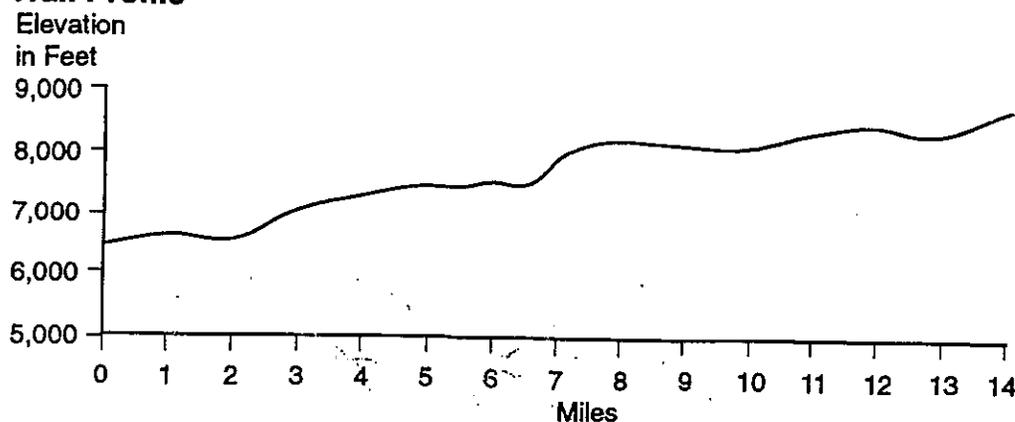
Difficulty: Difficult

Use Level: Light

Season: June-October

Topo Map: Tahoe City, Granite Chief & Homewood

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 west of Truckee, take the South Lake Tahoe exit and follow Highway 89 south for 8.5 miles to the Squaw Valley junction. (If you are coming from Lake Tahoe, take Highway 89 north from Tahoe City for 5 miles.) Turn west on Squaw Valley Road and drive 2.2 miles to the Squaw Valley Fire Station. Hikers must use the large parking area in front of the ski lift buildings and under no condition use any of the parking spaces around the fire station. The trailhead is located on the east (right) side of the fire station and is clearly marked.

Trail Description

Follow the Granite Chief Trail up to where it connects with the PCT. Going south from the Granite Chief Trail junction, the PCT ascends for about a mile to 8600 feet on the eastern flank of Granite Chief Peak. It then descends to

the intersection of the Western States Trail where you can take a short detour to visit the historic Watson Monument at Emigrant Pass, (0.5 mile up the Western States Trail).

One mile south of the Western States Trail intersection, the Tevis Cup Trail veers off to the west. For the next 1.5 miles, the PCT descends down several switchbacks and passes through a meadow paralleling Whisky Creek. Just beyond the meadow is the Whisky Creek Trail junction. From this junction to the Five Lakes Trail junction the PCT crosses 3/4 mile of open slopes which offer beautiful displays of wildflowers seasonally.

The trail then turns south across Five Lakes Creek then climbs up 700 feet in the next 2 miles.

From the crest there are spectacular views of the Granite Chief Wilderness. To the south are massive cliffs of columnar-jointed basalt on the sides of Powderhorn and Little Powderhorn canyons. The trail remains relatively level on or near the crest for the next 3 miles until it reaches Twin Peaks.

At Twin Peaks the trail leaves the crest and traverses west, below the actual peaks. Anywhere along this segment you can climb a short distance to the top of Twin Peaks. Spectacular views of Lake Tahoe, Mount Rose, Tinker Knob, the many high peaks of Desolation Wilderness and the scenery of Granite Chief Wilderness make this extra climb well worth the effort.

Note

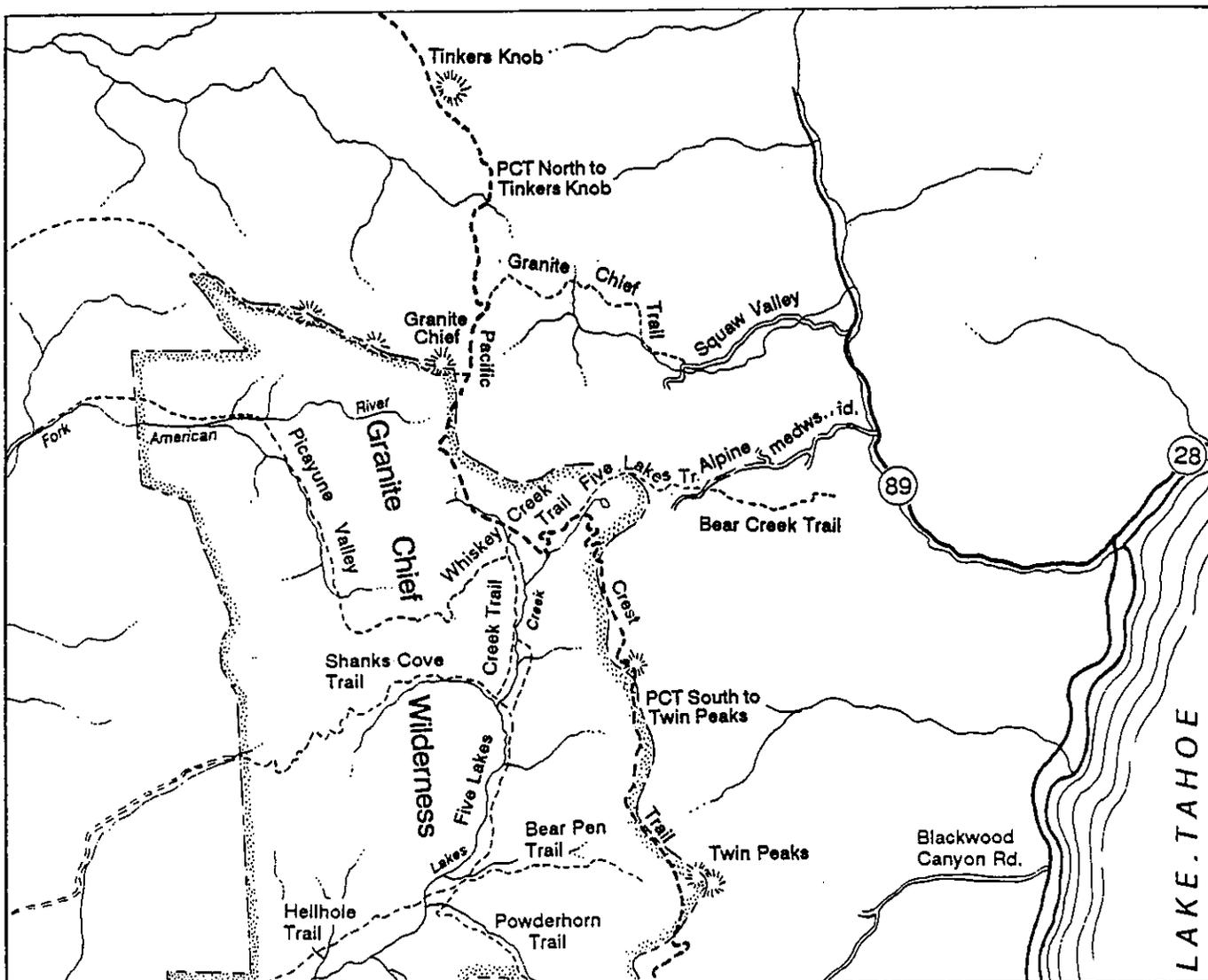
Water often is not available along the route. You may wish to carry water with you. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, pond, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. Another method of treatment is to use a water filter.

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Trails - Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows Area

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Bear Creek Trail - Alpine Meadows Area

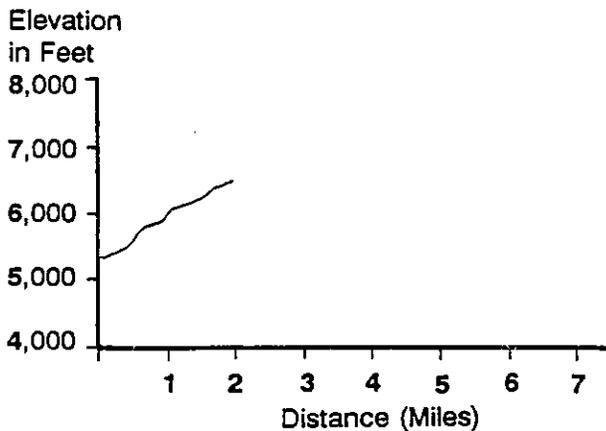
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 2.0 miles one-way
Elevation: 5280-6560 feet
Difficulty: Very easy
Use Level: Moderate
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Tahoe City

Trail Profile



Access

From Interstate 80 in Truckee, take Highway 89S drive for 9.5 miles to Alpine Meadows Road. From Tahoe City take Highway 89 north and drive 4.0 miles to Alpine Meadows Road. One half mile up Alpine Meadows Road on the south side of the road is Alpine

Stables. The trailhead is located at the western end of the stable facilities and has ample parking.

Trail Description

The Bear Creek Trail gradually ascends and then descends along the southern side of Bear Creek Canyon, passing through an alpine setting of mixed conifers. The last part of the trail descends into a housing area and crosses Bear Creek on a footbridge. Alpine Meadows Road just a short distance from the bridge.

The trail is used frequently by the local residents as well as stock. Since the trail passes near residences and crosses private land, hikers are requested to respect the privacy and rights of the local residents and landowners.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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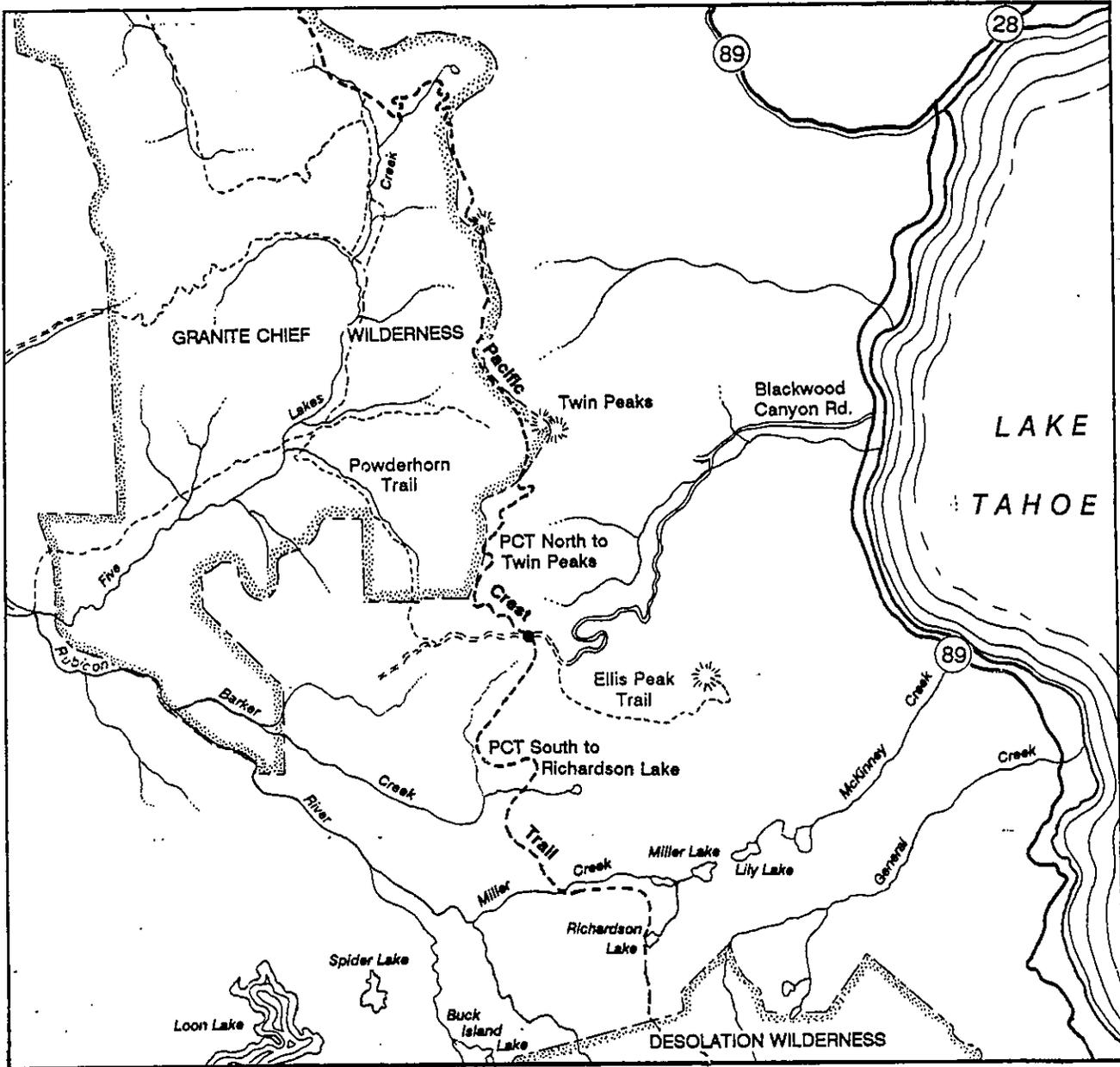
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Trails - Barker Pass Area

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Ellis Peak Trail - Barker Pass Area

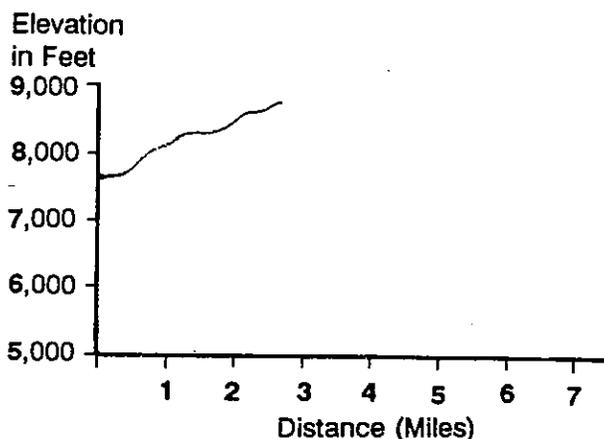
Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 2.5 miles one way
Elevation: 7800-8740 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Use Level: Heavy
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Homewood

Trail Profile



Trail Description

From the trailhead, the trail steeply ascends via several switchbacks under a forested canopy until it reaches the ridge (8270'). Following the ridge for 1.5 miles, the trail passes through sections of open forests and meadows full of wildflowers. There are also several good views of Lake Tahoe to enjoy along the way. The trail soon intersects a dirt road. To reach Ellis Lake, follow the road to the left for .2 miles. This small, tranquil lake makes an ideal spot for a picnic. To reach Ellis Peak, follow the road to the right. Approximately 100 yards down the road, another road will take off to the east. Follow that road for .3 miles to Knee Ridge (8520'). From here it is just a short distance to Ellis Peak (8640'). Hikers who do reach that top are rewarded with spectacular views of Lake Tahoe and its surrounding peaks to the east, and to the west, equally impressive views of Granite Chief Wilderness and Hellhole Reservoir.

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to bring water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

Special Note

Also open for motorcycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 in Truckee, take Highway 89S to Tahoe City. Continue south on 89 from Tahoe City another 4.2 miles to Caspian Picnic Area. Turn west on Blackwood Canyon Road. The road follows Blackwood creek for 2.3 miles, crosses the creek and then climbs 4.8 miles to Barker Pass. Ellis Peak Trailhead is located on the south side of the road where the pavement ends on the summit.

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PCT, Barker Pass to Twin Peaks - Barker Pass Area

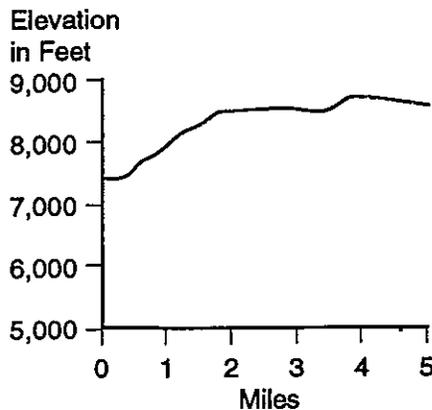
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General Information

Mileage: 5.0 miles one way
Elevation: 7640 to 8880 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Use Level: Light
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Homewood

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 in Truckee, take Highway 89 S and drive to Tahoe City. Continue south on 89 from Tahoe City for another 4.2 miles to Caspian Picnic Area. Turn west on Blackwood Canyon Road. The road follows Blackwood creek for 2.3 miles, crosses the creek and then climbs 4.8 miles to Barker Pass. The pavement ends near the summit. The P.C.T. trailhead is .3 miles beyond where the pavement ends on the North side of the road.

Trail Description

Shortly after leaving the trailhead, the PCT contours around Barker Peak on its western flank and continues at moderate climb for another mile to a ridge (8200'). The view of Lake Tahoe from here makes this a good place to stop for a short break. The trail then descends through a shady forest of mountain hemlock, white pine and red fir to a meadow above the north fork of Blackwood Creek.

The trail continues north for .5 miles, climbs via some switchbacks and then gently ascends through an area of crested knolls to 8434'. Although the PCT does not go to the top of Twin Peaks, this area offers spectacular scenery in every direction.

Twin Peaks are the remnants of a 5-10 million year old volcano. From here you can see spectacular views of the Tahoe high country (Tinkers Knob, Mt. Rose, Freel Peak, Mount Tallac, Dicks Peak and Pyramid Peak).

Note

Water is often not available along the route. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. You may wish to carry water with you. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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P. C. T. So. of Barker Pass to Richardson Lake - Barker Pass Area

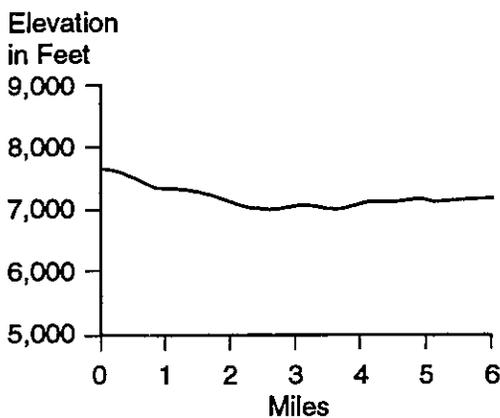
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General Information

Mileage: 6.0 miles one way
Elevation: 7649-7000-7400 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Use Level: Light
Season: June-October
Topographic Map: Homewood

Trail Profile



Special Note about the PCT:

Congress established the Pacific Crest Trail on October 2, 1968 with passage of the National Trail System Act. The P.C.T. runs for 2,500 miles generally following mountain divides from Mexico to Canada, through California, Oregon and Washington.



Mechanized and Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

Access

From Interstate 80 in Truckee, take Highway 89 south and drive to Tahoe City. Continue south on 89 from Tahoe City for another 4.2 miles to Caspian Picnic Area. Turn west on Blackwood Canyon Road. The road follows Blackwood creek for 2.3 miles, crosses the creek and then climbs 4.8 miles to Barker Pass. The pavement ends at the summit. The P.C.T. trailhead is .3 miles beyond where the pavement ends. The PCT south to Richardson Lake starts from Barker Pass Road at the summit.

Trail Description

From Barker Pass Road, the trail gently descends for 1.8 miles through areas of light forest and open, springfed meadows to Bear Lake Road (7000'). After crossing the road, the trail descends another .2 miles, crosses Bear Lake Creek and goes for another 1.8 miles through a relatively flat open area before reaching the Rubicon Road and Miller Creek.

On the other side of Miller creek is another .5 miles of flat terrain before the trail reaches a dense forest. The last .5 miles is a gentle ascent to Richardson Lake (7400').

For those who wish to continue hiking, follow the PCT south for another 9 miles to middle Velma Lake in Desolation Wilderness. From the lake, it is 4.5 miles to Eagle Falls Picnic Area on Highway 89 at Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe.

Note

South of Richardson Lake, the PCT enters Desolation Wilderness. A wilderness permit is required. Permits may be obtained from Eldorado National Forest or the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Water is often not available along the route. You may wish to carry water with you. Only water from developed systems at recreation sites is maintained safe to drink. Open water sources are easily contaminated by human or animal waste. Water from springs, lakes, ponds, and streams should be properly treated before drinking. One recommended method of treatment is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for five minutes. Another method of treatment is to use a backpackers water filter.

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Commemorative Emigrant Trail

Prosser, Boca, Stampede Area

Truckee Ranger District - Tahoe National Forest



General Information

Mileage: 15 miles one way

Elevation: 6000-6200

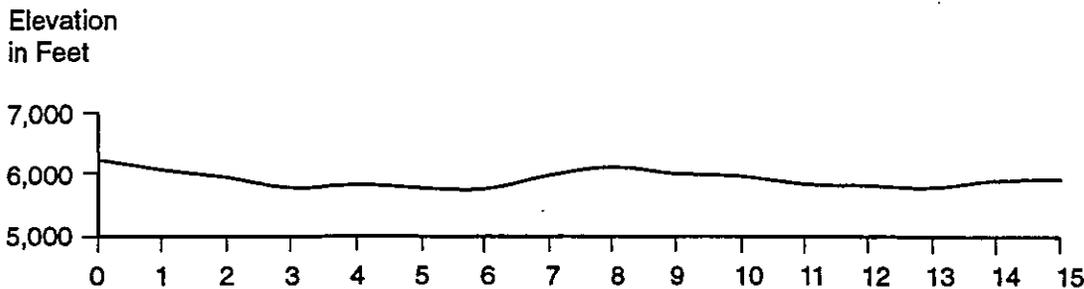
Difficulty: moderate

Use level: moderate

Topographic Maps: Hobart Mills & Truckee

Trail is relatively new and is not shown on all maps.

Trail Profile



Access

From Interstate 80, take State Highway 89 north approximately 2.3 miles to County Road 780 (Alder Creek Trail Road). Turn left (west) on 780 and proceed for approximately 3 miles on the road. The trail starts on the south side of road 780 across from road 780-12.

The trail can also be accessed near the Stampede Reservoir. To access this trailhead, take Interstate 80 approximately 7 miles past Truckee to the Hirschdale exit. Take this exit and cross under the freeway on County Road No. 894, (Stampede Road). Follow this road for approximately 9 miles, past the Sierra/Nevada County line (at which point the road becomes road 270) to the intersection of the Dog Valley Road (County road 261). Turn left (west) and proceed for approximately 2.5 miles to the end of the pavement. The trail begins on the west side of the Road 261 just past the end of the pavement.

The trail can also be accessed at many points along the length of the trail including at the Donner Camps picnic area on Highway 89, and along the Old Reno and East Pasture Road.

Description

The trail parallels the routes taken by the emigrants in the mid-1800's. Much of the original emigrant route has been obliterated by roads and reservoirs.

From the Alder Creek Trail Road trailhead, follow the trail downhill as it follows an old dirt road. The trail crosses the creek several times, as well as Schussing and Alder Creek Trail Road. After crossing Alder Creek Trail road, the trail heads through a forest of pines for approximately 1/2 mile before reaching a gate just west of Highway 89. Cross through this gate, cross the highway and enter the Donner Camps Picnic Area. The picnic area offers an interpretive trail about the Donner Party, picnic tables and toilet facilities. The trail resumes on the north side of the

picnic area parking lot. In the next few miles, the trail crosses several wetlands on a raised gravel path. Stay on these gravel paths. They were installed to protect the wetland vegetation.

The trail begins to climb slightly revealing good views of Mount Rose and Prosser Reservoir. This section of the trail offers great opportunities for wildlife viewing. The trail crosses several roads before you reach Prosser Reservoir. At this point, you can climb to Highway 89 through a lush drainage and cross Prosser Creek on the Highway bridge or you can ford the creek. The highway bridge crossing is recommended for hikers and bikers particularly in the early season when water levels are high. Equestrians and bikers must dismount and walk across the bridge. From the highway bridge, the trail follows Prosser creek for about 1/4 mile to the junction with the trail that forded the creek. Head left, up to the dirt road, and follow the road for approximately 50 feet until the single track trail resumes.

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