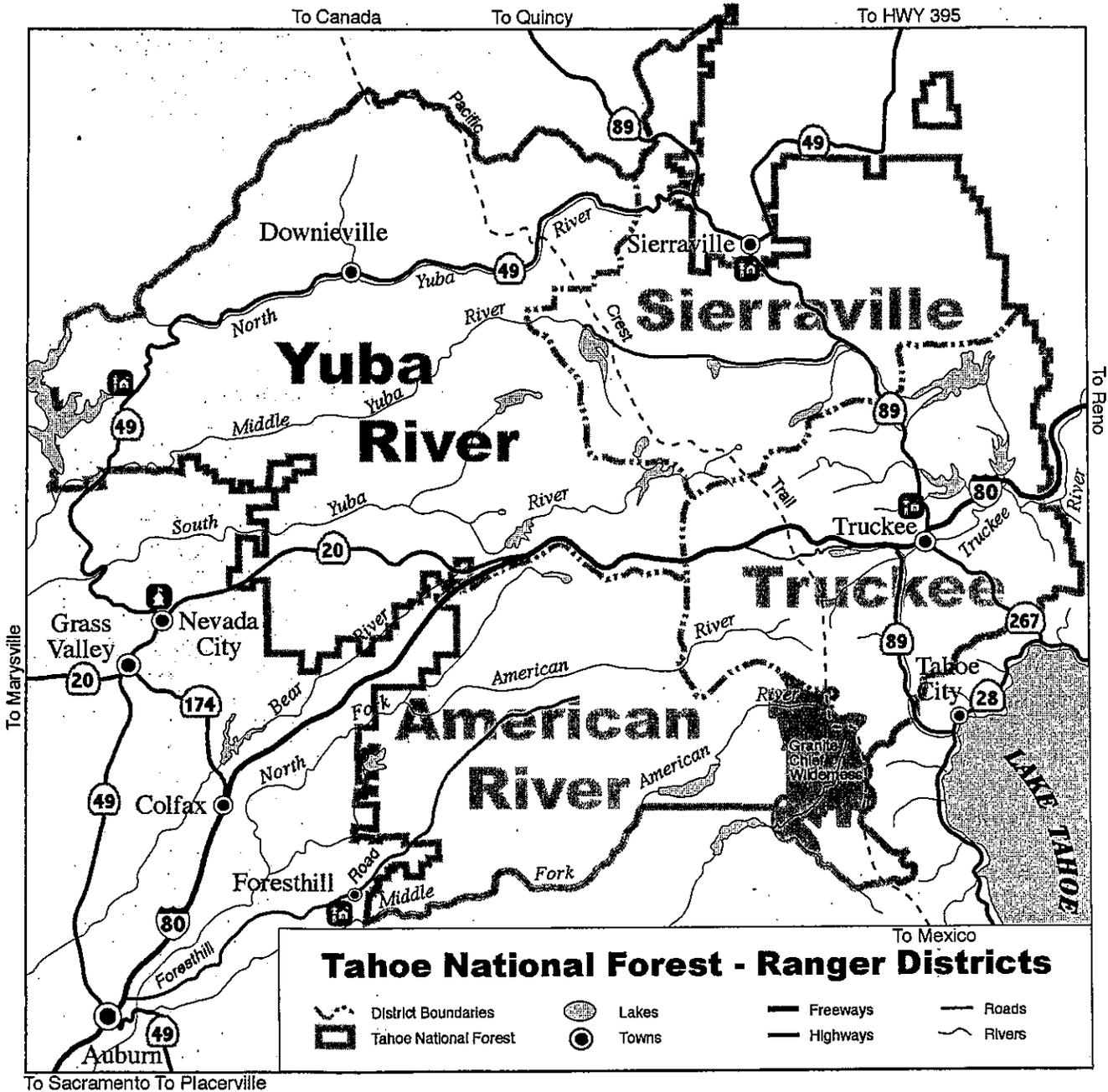


# Trails - Yuba River Ranger District - North

## 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.

- Stay on trails and don't cut switchback
- There are no trash bins in the backcountry, so please carry out what you bring in. It can take thirty years for some trash to decompose.
- Also remember that 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 the ideal times to beat the heat and the crowds. However, the cooler the 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 "10 essentials" - extra food, water, clothing, maps, sunglasses, compass, first aid kit, waterproof matches or lighter, flashlight, and knife. Since weather in the mountains is unpredictable, you should take clothing that can keep you warm and dry. Bring a waterproof poncho and warm outer clothing. Even when days are hot, nights in the Sierra can be very cold.

### Maps

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

### All Are Welcome

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, 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, stay on well-used trails in case you become sick or injured. An illness that is normally minor can become serious at high elevations. If you get sick, 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 5,000 feet in elevation. It is a green plant in summer, turns red in the fall, and loses its leaves in winter. Learn to identify its changing appearance throughout the year.

Rattlesnakes, important predators 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 May 1st, 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 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 very ill. If you do drink water from streams and lakes, be sure to boil it for three to five minutes.

### Private Land

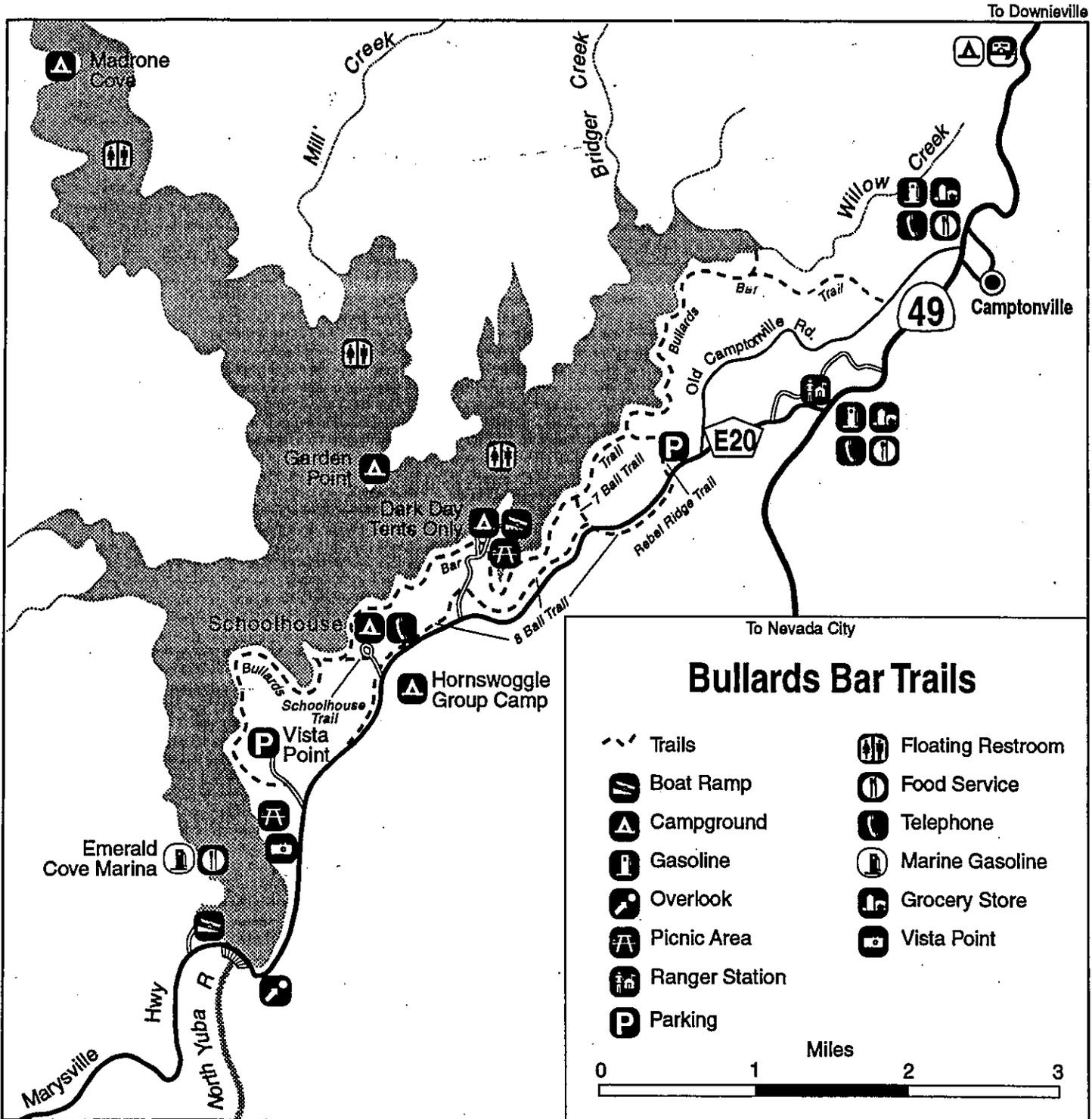
Many parcels of private land will be found within the National Forest Boundary. Please respect the rights of landowners.

### All Are Welcome

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Trails - Bullards Bar Area

Yuba River Ranger District – North  
Tahoe National Forest



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Tahoe National Forest  
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# Bullards Bar Trails - Bullards Bar Area

## Yuba River Ranger District – North - Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

#### Distance

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Bullards Bar:  | 14.0 miles |
| 7 Ball Trail:  | 1.0 miles  |
| 8 Ball Trail:  | 3.8 miles  |
| Rebel Ridge Tr | 1.6 miles  |
| Schoolhouse Tr | 0.7 miles  |

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Elevation:       | 2243' - 2250'             |
| Difficulty:      | Easy to Moderate.         |
| Use Level:       | Moderate                  |
| Season:          | All Year.                 |
| Topographic Map: | Camptonville & Challenge. |

#### General Description

As indicated under the access description, the trails can be accessed from several trailheads. There are plenty of wildflowers, ferns, and some huge ponderosa pines and douglas firs. Trail users should be cautious about straying from the trail due to the abundance of poison oak. A nice place to picnic with relaxing view of the lake can be found at the Dark Day picnic area.

#### Bullards Bar Trail

This trail offers an easy, fairly level route around the contour of the reservoir with excellent spots for fishing and swimming.

#### Access

From Nevada City take Highway 49 to Marysville Road (County Road No. E20) 2 miles south of Camptonville and turn left. Follow this road for 2.6 miles to the Dark Day Picnic Area/Boat Ramp turn off. Turn right and head towards the boat ramp parking area. Both the east and west trail sections can be accessed here. The trail can also be started at the Sunset Vista Point, which is 2.3 miles west of the Dark Day Picnic Area/Boat Ramp turn off. The Sunset Vista Point is located 0.75 miles east of the Bullards Bar Reservoir Dam. The eastern trailhead for Bullards Bar Trail is on the Old Camptonville Road. From the intersection of Highway 49 and Marysville Road, take Highway 49 north approximately 2 miles, turn left onto the Old Camptonville Road, and follow it for approximately 1 mile. The trailhead is on the right.

#### Rebel Ridge Trail

Parking for this trail is located 0.6 miles from the intersection of Highway 49 and Marysville Road. This is a beautiful, moderate hike or ride down to Bullards Bar Trail. The trail descends approximately 500' through a lush conifer forest and is shaded throughout the day.

#### 7 Ball Trail

To get to the trailhead for 7 Ball, take the paved road that joins Marysville Road 1.5 and 1.9 miles west of Highway 49. This trail begins on an old roadbed and then descends approximately 400' at a moderate to rapid rate to Bullards Bar Trail.

#### Schoolhouse Trail

This trail can be accessed near campsite 13 of Schoolhouse Campground just off Marysville Road (3.4 miles west of Highway 49). A rapid descent of approximately 250' down to Bullards Bar Trail following a heavily shaded old roadbed.

#### 8 Ball Trail

This trail is a singletrack alternative to walking/riding on Marysville Road. It connects the Rebel Ridge, 7 Ball, and Schoolhouse Trails to make several loop routes possible with the Bullards Bar Trail. It winds its way through dense forest and open scrub brush areas following the route of Marysville Road

#### Note

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. Drinking water is available at the developed recreation sites at Bullards Bar Reservoir except during winter months.

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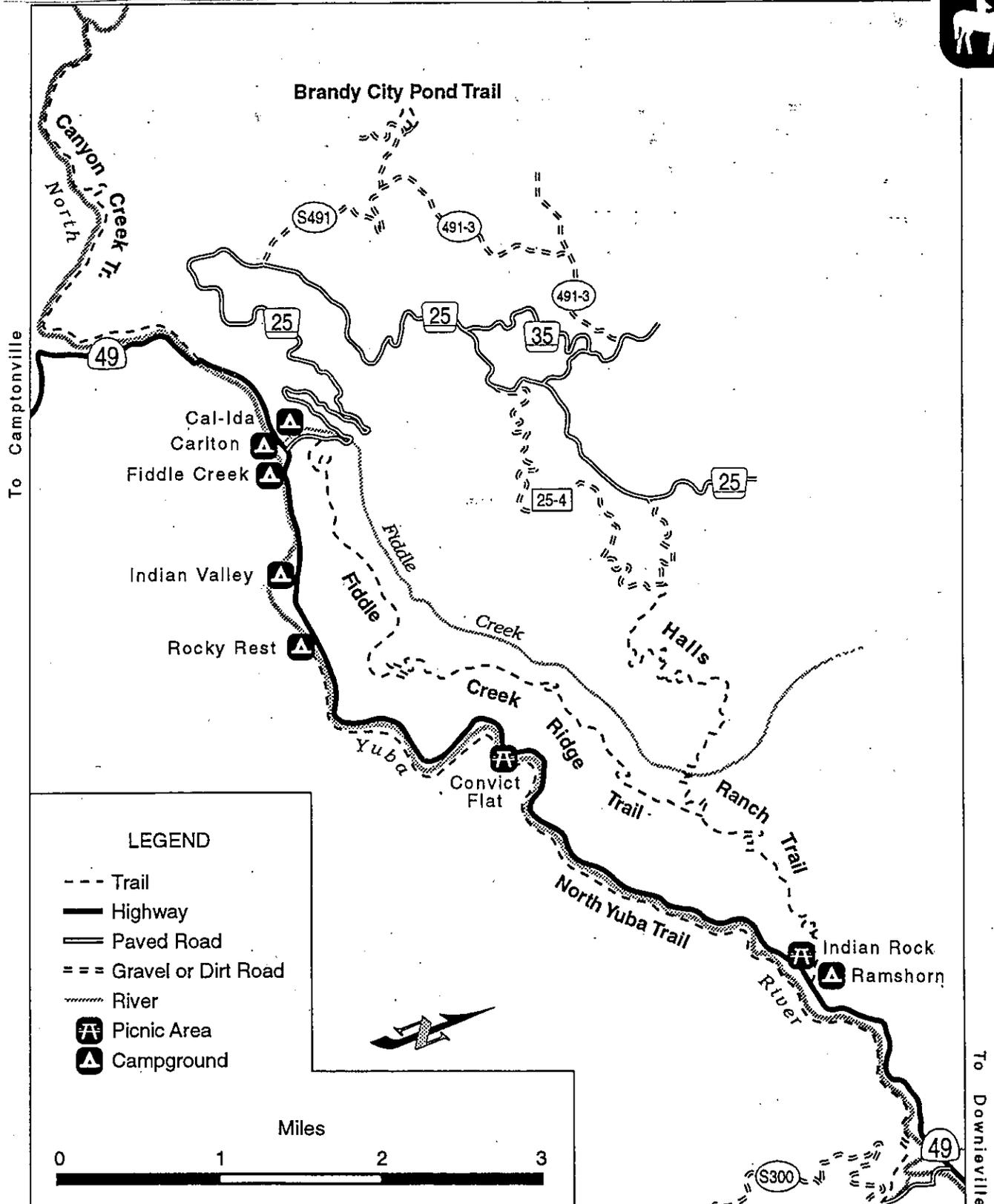


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# Trails - Indian Valley Area

Yuba River Ranger District - North  
Tahoe National Forest



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# Brandy City Pond Trail - Indian Valley Area

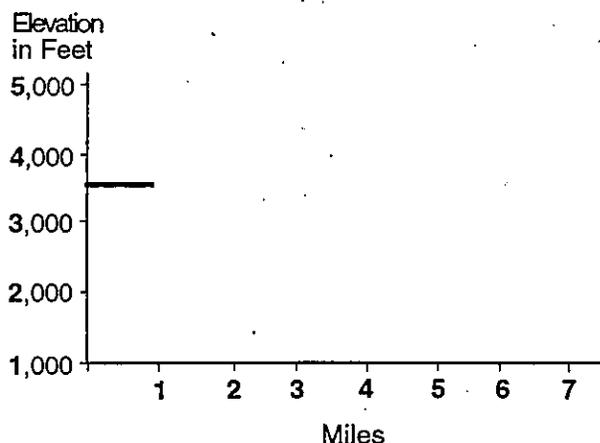
Yuba River Ranger District – North - Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 1 mile  
Elevation: 3600'  
Difficulty: easy  
Use Level: light  
Season: April through October  
Topographic Map: Strawberry 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

Follow State Highway 49 east to the Cal-Ida Road, which is on the left(north), just past the Indian Valley Outpost. If you drive past Fiddle Creek Campground, you have gone too far. Cal-Ida Road is officially named County Road 490 and is paved. Proceed north on Cal-Ida Road. The road is narrow and winding, so use caution. Logging traffic can be heavy so you might want to drive slowly and turn on your headlights. After 4.5 miles you will come to the old Cal-Ida Mill site. You should take a left (west) on the dirt Road 491 at the Mill Site. Travel north on the dirt Road 491 and you will cross a bridge over Cherokee Creek and then the road will intersect with Road 491-3. Stay to the left and proceed over Youngs Ravine. You will see a gated Road 491-4 on

your left. During particular times of the year this road is open, but you should not take it. Take the next right which is in .7 mile on Road 491-6. One tenth of a mile on this road and you'll be at Brandy City Pond.

## Trail Description

The trail is level and travels around the pond. The pond is located in a historic hydraulic mining pit. The sheer walls are the results of previous hydraulic mining. This type of mining involves a series of ditches, canals, and canvas hose and a large nozzle, known as a monitor or water cannon, used to direct water under pressure to wash away the hillside into a sluice box. A sluice box is a series of riffles designed to trap heavy materials such as gold and release the lighter material to flow into the drainages creating problems in the valleys below. It was declared illegal to release the tailings into the drainages in 1884, making this type of mining unprofitable.

## Note:

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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# Canyon Creek Trail - Indian Valley Area

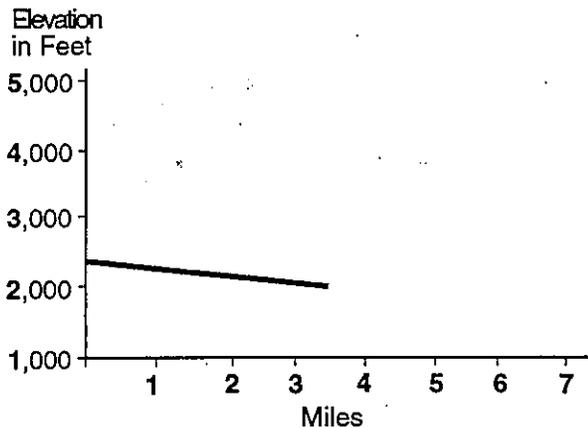
Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 3.5 miles one way  
Elevation: 2300' - 2000'  
Difficulty: Easy  
Use Level: Light  
Season: Almost year round  
Topographic Map: Strawberry Valley 7.5

## Trail Profile



## Access

From Downieville, follow Highway 49 west for ten miles to the trailhead at the Shenanigan Flat Road on the north bank of the North Yuba River before the highway bridge. Park here but do not block the gate. Shenanigan Flat is an active mining area and authorized miners may use the road to reach their claims and camps.

## Trail Description

The route follows the road above the North Yuba River for two miles. It passes through an area where miners are allowed to camp, please do not disturb any equipment or take anything even if it looks abandoned. The road ends at Cherokee Creek where a newly constructed foot bridge spans the creek. Across the bridge, the route continues on a single track. A few hundred feet beyond the bridge is the Brandy City Trail which has been used since 1850. Presently it is not maintained. The trail follows the contour of the North Yuba River quite a distance above it and passes through Douglas fir and oak woodland. It is mostly level all the way to the where the trail ends at Canyon Creek, a creek almost as large as the North Yuba River! This confluence is quite exciting when the water is running fast. Views of both canyons are quite impressive with or without high water.

## Note:

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# North Yuba Trail - Indian Valley Area

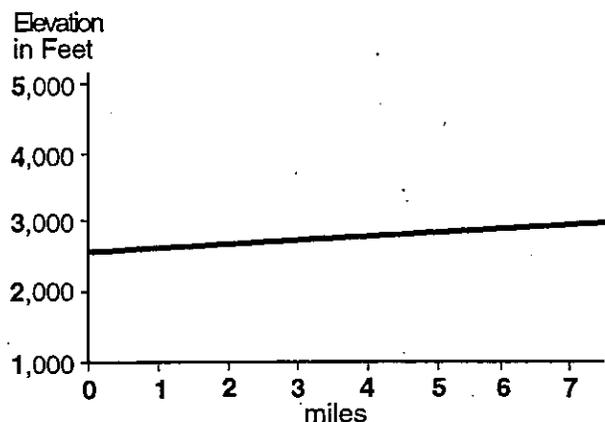
Yuba River Ranger District – North - Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 7.5 miles one way  
Elevation: 2600' - 3000'  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Use Level: Moderate  
Season: Almost year round  
Topographic Map: Goodyears Bar 7.5

## Trail Profile



## Access

From Downieville, follow Highway 49 west for seven and one half miles to Rocky Rest Campground and Trailhead. Park in the day use area and walk east up the small hill to the trail bridge that crosses the North Yuba River. The trail begins here. Once the bridge is crossed, the trail follows the contour of the North Yuba River to the community of Goodyears Bar.

## Trail Description

The route is close to the river for most of the distance. In places the trail climbs some, but for the most part, it is fairly level. The route is beautiful as it traverses through varying wooded habitats and rocky outcrops. The trail crosses many side drainages that flow into the North Yuba River. During high runoff, use extra caution when making these crossings.

Those who can arrange transportation, may wish to be dropped off at Goodyears Bar and picked up at the Rocky Rest Trailhead. To get to the Goodyears Bar Trailhead, travel four miles west of Downieville then take County Road 300 south through the community. After crossing the bridge, take a right at the stop sign. The trailhead is approximately one quarter mile from the stop sign. Please be courteous when travelling through the community of Goodyears Bar. Obey all the traffic regulations and try not to disturb the residents.

## Note:

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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# Halls Ranch Trail - Indian Valley Area

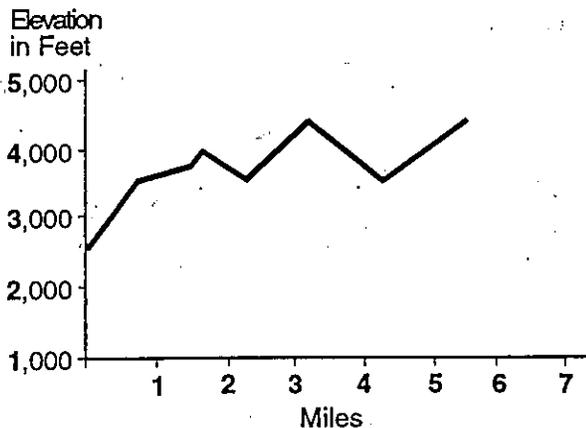
## Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 5.5 miles one way  
Elevation: 2600 - 4400  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Season: April - November  
Topographic Map: Goodyears Bar 7.5

### Trail Profile



### Access

From Downieville, follow Highway 49 west for five miles to the Indian Rock Picnic Area located across the highway from Ramshorn Campground and Summer Home tract. Park here. The trail begins just off the access road to the Summer Home Tract.

### Trail Description

Cross the highway and follow the road to the Summer Home Tract. The trail begins a hundred feet up this road. The first three miles are the most rewarding as it climbs to the ridgetop offering spectacular views of the North Yuba drainage. After a short hike along the ridge it drops

into Fiddle Creek, an ideal site for picnicking and relaxing. It immediately climbs over another ridge and drops into Little Fiddle Creek before making the final ascent to Halls Ranch.

During high runoff, the creeks can be quite challenging to cross, please use extra caution.

Beyond Fiddle Creek, the trail passes through the Indian Burn, a result of a 10,000 acre fire that occurred in late summer, 1987. Some stretches of the trail through the burn can be hard to follow during certain times of the year when vegetation grows in and over the trail.

Those who can arrange transportation, may wish to be dropped off below Halls Ranch Station and be picked up at the Indian Rock Picnic Area. Hiking the trail in this direction, the road to Halls Ranch begins near the Indian Valley Outpost and is paved most of the way. Follow the signs to Cal Ida. (4.6 miles beyond Highway 49) At Cal Ida, stay on Forest Rd 25 and continue 4 miles to Halls Ranch. Turn onto the dirt road at the Halls Ranch Guard Station, pass the buildings and continue 1.25 miles, (veering right at the fork) to the trailhead.

### Note:

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# Fiddle Creek Ridge Trail - Indian Valley Area

Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest



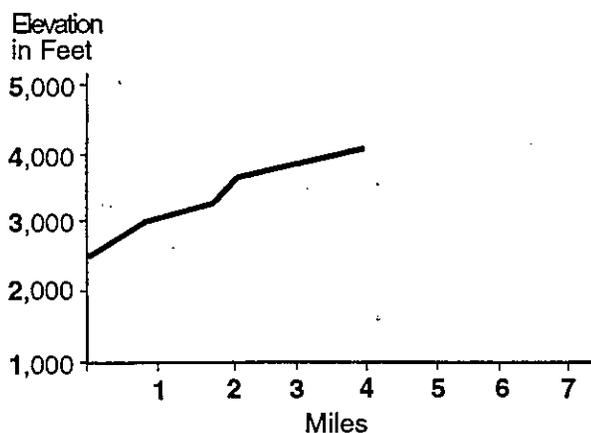
## GENERAL INFORMATION

Mileage: 4.0 miles one way  
Elevation: 2600' - 4000'  
Difficulty: Moderate - difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Season: April - December  
Topographic Map: Goodyears Bar 7.5

## Trail Description

The trail winds up the ridge, offering views into the North Yuba River Canyon, for the first two miles. The route then traverses over the ridge offering views of the Fiddle Creek drainage. This trail connects up with the Halls Ranch Trail. Hikers have the opportunity to return to the Cal-Ida Road trailhead or hike on to Halls Ranch or to Highway 49 near the Indian Rock Picnic Area. Please refer to the Halls Ranch Trail description for adjoining hiking suggestions.

## Trail Profile



## Note:

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 is to bring clear water to a rolling boil for 5 minutes.

## Access

From Downieville, follow Highway 49 west to County Road 490 (Cal Ida Road), near the Indian Valley Outpost. Travel approximately one quarter mile to the trailhead. There is room for a few cars to park here. If there is no room left, park at Cal Ida Campground and walk to the trailhead.

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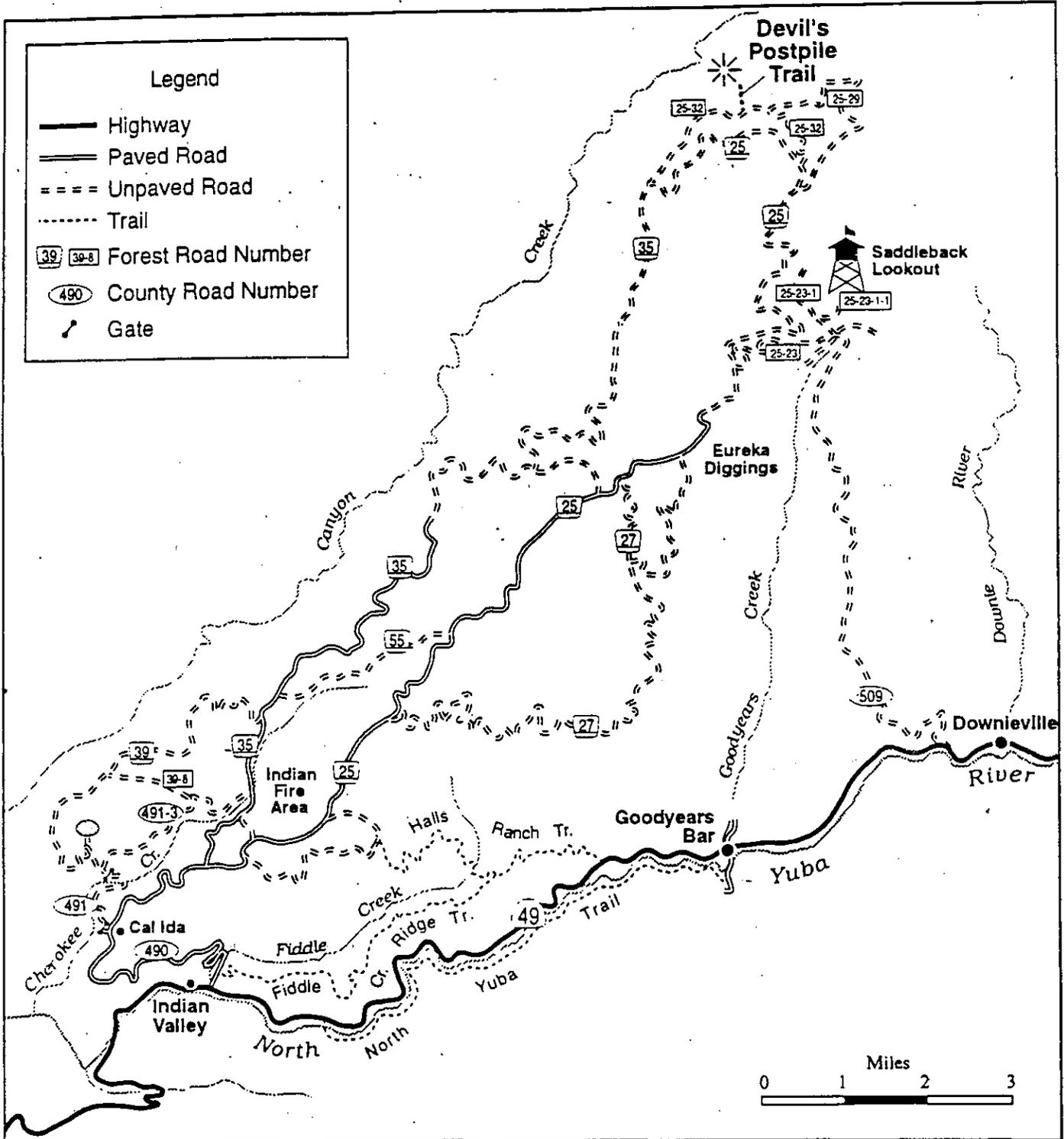


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# Devil's Postpile Trail - Indian Valley Area

Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest



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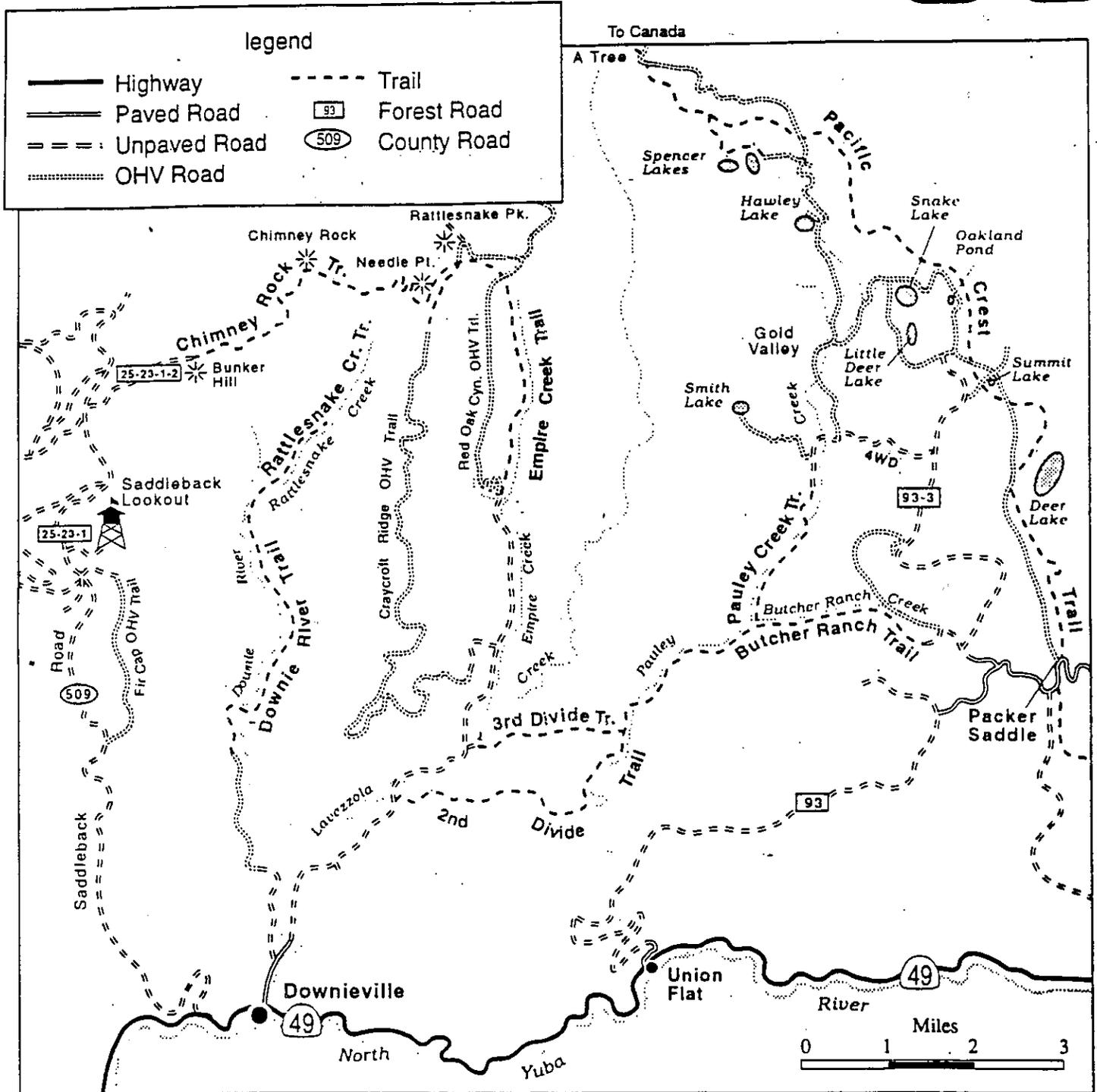
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# Trails - Downieville Area

Yuba River Ranger District – North  
Tahoe National Forest



To Camptonville

# Second & Third Divide Trails - Downieville Area

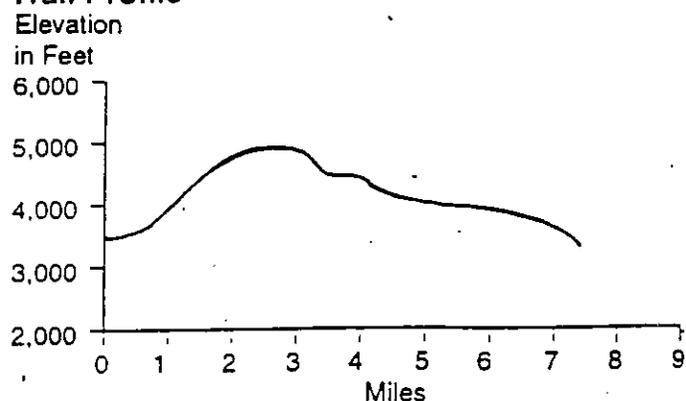
Yuba River Ranger District - North Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 7 miles round trip  
Elevation: Third Divide: 3480-4440 ft.  
Second Divide: 3400-4400 ft.  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Use Level: Light to moderate  
Season: April to November  
Topographic Map: Downieville 7.5'  
Sierra City 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

On Upper Main Street, proceed through the historic Gold Rush town of Downieville. Approximately 1/2 mile east of the town post office, cross the Downie River bridge. Continue on the dirt road 2.7 mile to the Second Divide trailhead on the right. To access the Third Divide trail, continue another 1 1/2 mile to a well-defined road fork. Take the right branch, entering Empire Ranch private land, and proceed 0.2 mile to the trailhead sign on the right. Please park your vehicle well off the road and respect the rights of private property owners.

There are several possibilities to explore in this area. Backpackers may choose to follow Second or Third

Divide Trails to the junction of the Butcher Ranch and Pauley Creek Trails. The Butcher Ranch Trail offers beautiful displays of spring flowers. The scenic Pauley Creek trail accesses Gold Valley. Day hikers who can arrange transportation may wish to be dropped off at the Third Divide trailhead and hike the loop to their vehicle at Second Divide.

## Trail Description

This description covers the loop from Third to Second Divide. A few hundred yards after the beginning trailhead at Third Divide, the trail crosses Lavezzola Creek and climbs moderately for 2 miles through a beautifully wooded area until it reaches the ridgetop. Another 0.2 mile brings you to the junction with the Second Divide and Butcher Ranch Trails. The Second Divide Trail follows Pauley Creek down the canyon. This area has a wide variety of birds, wildlife, and flowers. Pauley Creek falls rapidly and the short spur trails leading to the creek are well worth exploring for picnicking, fishing, and sightseeing.

During mild winters this trail can be accessed year round.

## Note:

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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# Empire Creek Trail - Downieville Area

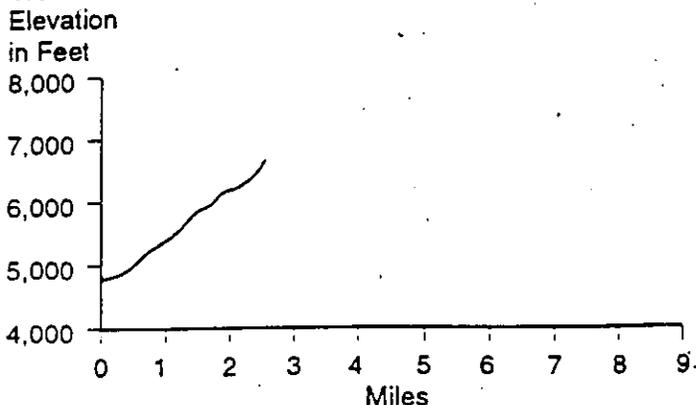
Yuba River Ranger District - North Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 2.5 miles, one way  
Elevation: 4820 to 6760 feet  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Season: June through September  
Topographic Map: Downieville 7.5'  
Mt. Fillmore 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

On Upper Main Street, proceed through the historic town of Downieville for approximately 0.5 mile past the town post office. Cross the Downie River bridge and continue 4.2 miles to a well-defined road fork. Take the left fork (marked Dead End), passing under the tall gates marked "Empire Ranch." Continue 2 miles to a sharp 180-degree turn in the road. At this point there is a sign reading "Red Oak Road" and "Empire Creek Trail" pointing to the narrow road on the right. Take this narrow road 1.6 miles to Red Oak Creek. From this point it is another 0.7 mile to the trailhead. Crossing Red Oak Creek without a four-wheel-drive can become quite an unwanted adventure and is not recommended! Hikers without a four-wheel-drive vehicle are encouraged to park here and hike to the trailhead.

## Trail Description

This trail follows the contour of Empire Creek Canyon through a setting of magnificent old growth timber and is a beautiful area to explore. Wildflowers, wildlife, and birdlife abound. After a moderate and steadily climbing hike of approximately 2 miles, the valley opens and provides a panoramic view of the surrounding area. After another 0.5 mile the maintained trail ends at a saddle. This saddle is an ideal area for picnicking and simply enjoying the tranquility of nature.

Hikers looking for a challenge will see Rattle Snake peak just 0.4 mile away. The additional 460-foot climb should be made from the northeast. Exercise care when climbing through the loose volcanic rock formation of the actual peak. The view from the top is spectacular, with Mount Lassen, Mount Shasta, Mount Rose, and the Sierra Buttes as the dominant peaks.

Hikers who can arrange transportation can connect at the end of the trail with the Chimney Rock Trail. This is an interesting and rewarding addition to the hike. For details see the description for Chimney Rock Trail.

## Note:

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# Chimney Rock Trail - Downieville Area

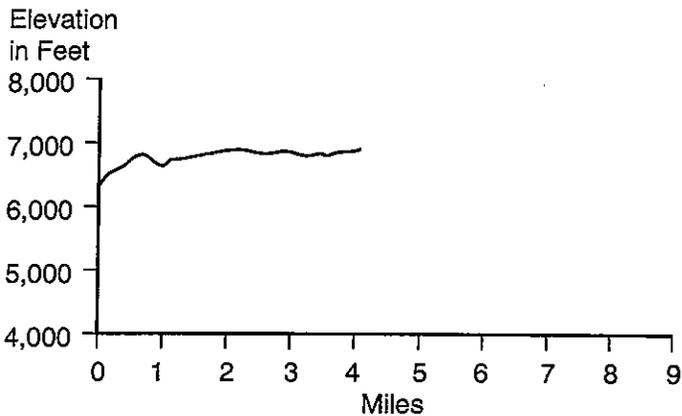
Yuba River Ranger District – North Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 4 miles one-way  
Elevation: 6400 to 6800 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Use Level: Light  
Season: June through October  
Topographic Map: Mt. Fillmore 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

From Downieville head approximately 0.2 mile west on Highway 49 and turn right on the dirt road. This is the Saddleback Road. Continue on this road for approximately 8 miles until you reach a five-way intersection. Head straight through the intersection onto road 25-23-1. After another 0.3 mile you will reach a "Y" intersection. Head straight through (do not veer right). Proceed 1 mile to another "Y" intersection. Once again head straight through. Approximately 1 more mile down the road you will bear right onto road 25-23-1-2. This road is posted "Dead End - Road Not Maintained." Continue on this road approximately 0.6 mile and head straight through another intersection. About 100 yards farther there is an obscure road which bears slightly left (this is the Poker Flat OHV Trail). Keep to the right and continue for approximately 1 mile to a turn-out at the base of Bunker Hill. Two-wheel drive vehicles should park here and hike the last 0.6 mile down this road to the trailhead. Four-wheel drive vehicles may choose to drive this last section.

**Note:** The access road from Downieville to the trailhead is a total length of 13.0 miles. There are some very rough sections with light traffic. Extra caution while driving is recommended.

## Trail Description

Views from this ridgetop trail are spectacular. From the trailhead, the trail climbs moderately for 1 mile, reaching Chimney Rock at an elevation of 6700 feet. Chimney Rock is a huge volcanic rock, 12 feet in diameter at its base, rising straight up for approximately 25 feet. At this point, with the splendid 360-degree vista, there is no need to try to climb to the top of the rock for a better view. The trail continues eastward, descending under a lightly forested canopy. It then starts to climb again around Needle Point and Rattlesnake Peak until it reaches the end of the Empire Creek Trail. Hikers who can arrange transportation may wish to descend the 2.5 miles into lovely Empire Creek Canyon instead of having to retrace their path to the Chimney Rock Trailhead. They can then be picked up at the Empire Creek Trailhead.

## Note:

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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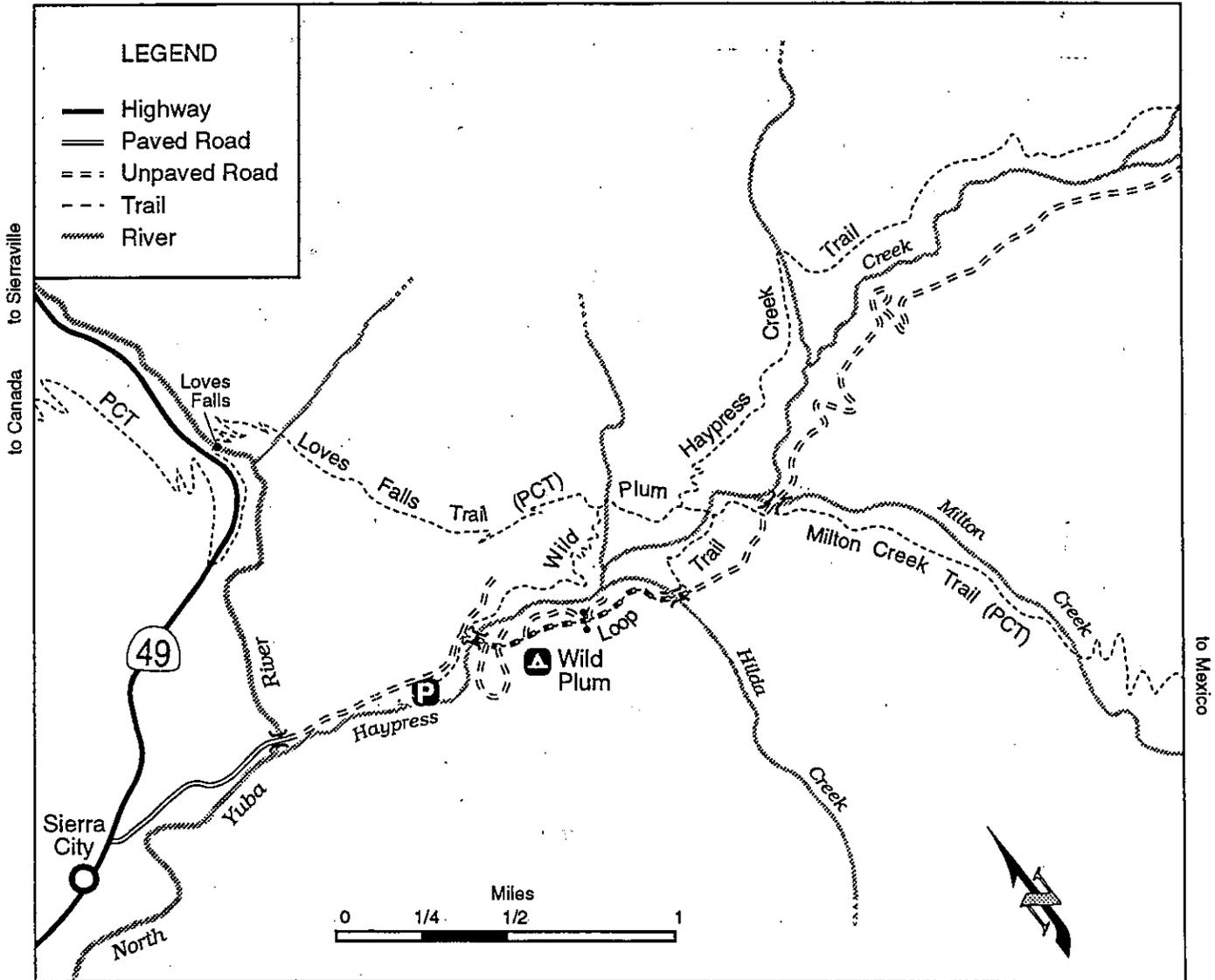
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# Trails - Sierra City Area

Yuba River Ranger District – North  
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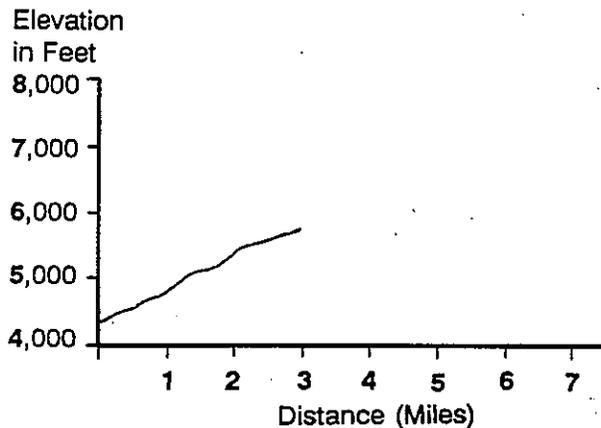
# Haypress Creek Trail - Sierra City Area

Yuba River Ranger District – North Tahoe National Forest

## General Information

Mileage: 3 miles, one way  
 Elevation: 4400 to 5840 feet  
 Difficulty: Moderate  
 Use Level: Light  
 Season: June through October  
 Topographic Map: Haypress Valley 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

**By Auto:** At the northeast end of Sierra City turn off Highway 49 onto Wild Plum Road at the sign for the Wild Plum Campground. (The sign is opposite the Yuba River Inn.) Follow Wild Plum Road 1 mile to a new trailhead parking facility. Walk the trail from the trailhead 1/4 mile where the trail crosses the road. Walk the road across the bridge and through Wild Plum Campground. About 1/2 mile past the campground the trail takes off from the road to the left. Follow it to an intersection 1/4 mile past a bridge over Haypress Creek. Haypress Creek Trail is to the right.

**If you're camped at Wild Plum:** The trail is accessed by starting at the upper end of Wild Plum Campground. About 1/2 mile past the campground the trail takes off from the road to the left. Follow it to an intersection 1/4 mile past a bridge over Haypress Creek. Haypress Creek Trail is to the right.

## Trail Description

From the upper end of Wild Plum Campground follow the new road for 1/2 mile. You will see a creek on your left that originates on the slopes above the Hilda Mine. At this point turn left and follow the well-

maintained and marked trail. The trail is fairly flat for approximately 1/2 mile to the footbridge across Haypress Creek. In this short section you have an excellent view of the Sierra Buttes. Just before the bridge the Wild Plum Loop Trail merges with the Pacific Crest Trail. Cross the bridge and follow the PCT for approximately 1/4 mile to a fork. Take the right branch marked "Haypress Creek Trail." The trail climbs for about 1/2 mile through an open, rocky area until it reaches a mixed conifer forest. It then follows an old wagon road onto private land. Due to recent logging activity on this land, the trail follows a skid trail for 1/4 mile then veers right onto a road for another 1/2 mile. Stay on this main road and do not get discouraged by the hike along the road. It will soon be well worth the walk.

Shortly before re-entering National Forest land the route becomes a trail again. It then follows the contour of Haypress Canyon, traversing through an old growth red fir forest. While listening to the rumbling of Haypress Creek, you will pass a lovely waterfall. Soon the valley opens and the maintained trail ends. A four-wheel drive road continues up Haypress Valley. This spot is very close to Haypress Creek and is an ideal place for a relaxing rest and a picnic.

For variety on the return hike, instead of turning left when you reach the Pacific Crest trail, turn right and follow it a few hundred yards to the Wild Plum Loop Trail junction. Follow the signs to Wild Plum Campground. This trail takes you down to the old Wild Plum Guard Station (which is now closed) and back to the campground in just over 1 mile.

## Note:

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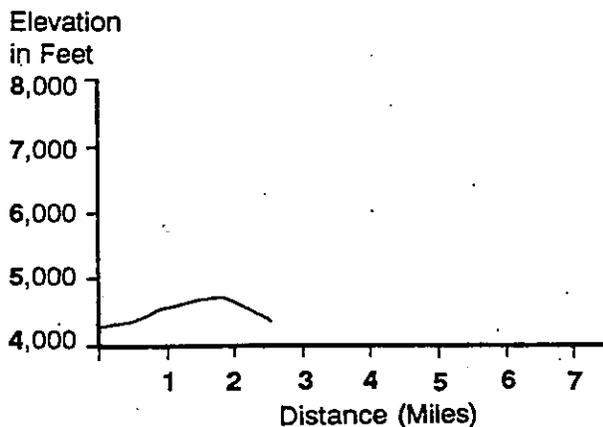
# PCT Wild Plum Loop Trail - Sierra City Area

Yuba River Ranger District – North Tahoe National Forest

## General Information

Mileage: 2-1/2 mile loop  
 Elevation: 4400 to 4840 feet  
 Difficulty: Easy  
 Use Level: Heavy  
 Season: May through October  
 Topographic Map: Haypress Valley 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

**By Auto:** At the northeast end of Sierra City turn off Highway 49 onto Wild Plum Road at the sign for the Wild Plum Campground. (The sign is located just opposite the Yuba River Inn.) Follow Wild Plum Road for 1 mile to a new trailhead parking facility. Walk the trail from the trailhead 1/4 mile where it crosses the road this is the intersection of the Wild Plum Loop Trail. Here we suggest you take the road across the bridge for an easier climb up and nice views of the Sierra Buttes on the steeper descent back.

**If camped at Wild Plum:** The trail starts at the east end of the upper loop of Wild Plum Campground.

## Trail Description

This trail is ideal for visitors of the campground and Sierra City motels since it offers a delightful, short

hike. The trail starts at either the new trailhead parking facility or at the upper end of the campground near Unit 31. It is best made in a counter-clockwise direction. From the trailhead parking facility walk the trail for 1/4 mile to where it crosses the road. Take the road across the bridge and through the campground (where campers will start onto the trail), climbing moderately through a mixed conifer forest. After approximately 1/2 mile you will see a creek on your left which originates on the slopes above the Hilda Mine. Here the trail leaves the road to the left. It remains relatively flat for another 1/2 mile, offering an excellent view of the towering Sierra Buttes.

The trail meets the Pacific Crest Trail at the bridge over Haypress Creek. Cross the bridge and follow the Pacific Crest Trail through a lightly forested area which provides several more glimpses of the Sierra Buttes. 1/2 Mile past the bridge you will reach a fork. Take the left fork, clearly marked for Wild Plum Campground. The trail guides you down to a flat area near the old Wild Plum Guard Station (now closed). In a few more minutes you will be at the road which you can take to the left over the bridge and back to the campground or you can take the trail across the road back to the new trailhead parking facility.

## Note:

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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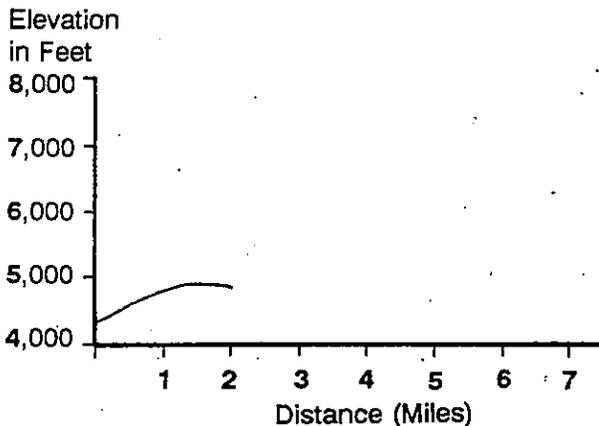
# PCT North to Loves Falls - Sierra City Area

## Yuba River Ranger District – North Tahoe National Forest

### General Information

Mileage: 2 miles, one way  
 Elevation: 4400 to 5000 feet  
 Difficulty: Moderate  
 Use Level: Moderate  
 Season: May to late October  
 Topographic Map: Haypress Valley 7.5'

### Trail Profile



### Access

**By Auto:** The shortest walk to Loves Falls is from the intersection of Hwy 49 and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), 0.2 mile northeast of Sierra City. From Hwy 49 walk ¼ mile southeast on the PCT. You'll see the falls on your right. For a longer walk (at the northeast end of Sierra City) turn off Highway 49 onto Wild Plum Road at the sign for the Wild Plum Campground. (The sign is located just opposite the Yuba River Inn.) Follow Wild Plum Road for 1 mile to the trailhead parking facility. Walk the trail from the trailhead ½ mile to where it crosses the road. Take the road over the bridge and through the campground. About ½ mile past the campground the trail takes off from the road to the left. Follow it to a fork in the trail past the bridge over Haypress Creek. Take the left fork staying on the PCT. (the right fork is Haypress Creek Trail) After ¼ mile you'll come to another fork. The right fork is the Loves Falls Trail section of the PCT. Take the left fork which completes the Wild Plum Loop Trail.

**If Camped at Wild Plum:** Follow the Wild Plum Loop Trail from the upper end of the campground. About ½ mile past the campground the trail takes off from the road to the left. Follow it to a fork in the trail just past the bridge over Haypress Creek. Take the left fork staying on the PCT. (the right fork is Haypress Creek

Trail) After ¼ mile you'll come to another fork. The right fork is the Loves Falls Trail section of the PCT. The left fork is the return portion of the Wild Plum Loop Trail which is a good way to take on your way back.

### Trail Description

This is probably one of the most rewarding hikes in the Wild Plum area. From the upper end of Wild Plum Campground follow the new road for ½ mile. On your left you will see a creek which originates on the slopes above the Hilda mine. At this point turn left onto the well-marked trail. The trail is fairly flat for approximately ½ mile to the footbridge across Haypress Creek. In this short section you have an excellent view of the towering Sierra Buttes. At the bridge the Wild Plum Trail merges with the Pacific Crest Trail. Cross the bridge and follow the PCT through a mixed conifer forest where you will get several more glimpses of the Sierra Buttes.

After approximately one and ½ mile you will reach the prime attraction of this hike: Loves Falls. A massive bridge vaults the North Yuba River. The river has cut a mini-gorge through the resistant metavolcanic rock. It thunders from fall to fall, with a deep pool lying at the base of each fall. The Loves Falls hike ends here, although the Pacific Crest Trail continues toward Sierra Buttes and, eventually, to the Canadian border. When returning to the campground, we suggest you hike back on the PCT approximately ¾ mile to a fork. Take the right branch, marked "Wild Plum Campground." The trail guides you down across a flat area near Wild Plum Guard Station, one of the oldest ranger stations in California (now closed), and back to the campground.

### Note:

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# PCT South to Milton Creek - Sierra City Area

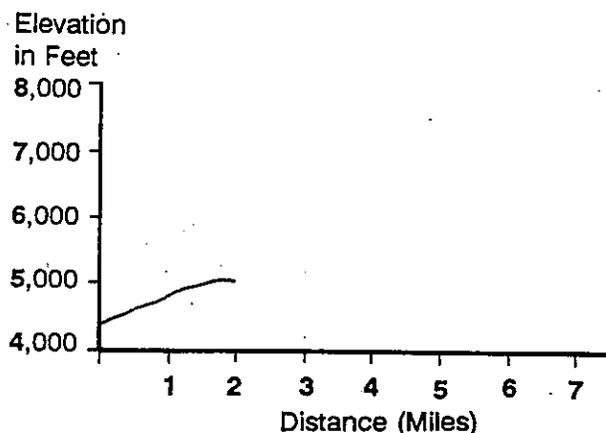
Yuba River Ranger District - North Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 2 miles, one way  
Elevation: 4400 to 5040 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Use Level: Moderate  
Season: May through October  
Topographic Map: Haypress Valley 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

**By Auto:** At the northeast end of Sierra City turn off Highway 49 onto Wild Plum Road at the sign for the Wild Plum Campground. (The sign is located just opposite the Yuba River Inn.) Follow Wild Plum Road for 1 mile to the trailhead parking facility. Walk the trail from the trailhead  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile where it crosses the road. This is the intersection of Wild Plum Loop Trail. Take the road across the bridge and through the campground. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile past the campground the trail takes off from the road to the left. Follow it to the intersection at a bridge over Haypress Creek. The Milton Creek Trail is the trail to the right just before the bridge.

**If Camped at Wild Plum:** Start at the upper end of Wild Plum Campground and following the Wild Plum Loop Trail. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile past the campground the trail takes off from the road to the left. Follow it to the intersection at a bridge over Haypress Creek. The

Milton Creek Trail is the trail to the right just before the bridge.

## Trail Description

This is one of the easiest trails in the Wild Plum Campground Area, providing a peaceful walk up beautiful Milton Creek. From the campground the road goes through a heavily forested area.

The Milton Creek Trail is actually part of the Pacific Crest Trail. To access the trail, take a right turn onto the PCT and head south. Shortly the trail crosses a road and follows Milton Creek for approximately 1 mile to a bridge across Milton Creek, which is an ideal place for picnicking. This last mile of trail is relatively flat and scenic. The Milton Creek hike stops here, although the PCT continues south to Jackson Meadow and eventually arrives at the Mexican border.

When returning to the campground, we suggest following the Pacific Crest Trail across the Haypress Creek Bridge. It passes through a lightly forested area which provides you several glimpses of the towering Sierra Buttes.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile past the bridge you will reach a fork. Take the left fork, clearly marked for Wild Plum Campground. The trail guides you down to a flat area near the old Wild Plum Guard Station (now closed). In a few more minutes you will cross Haypress Creek and arrive in the campground.

## Note:

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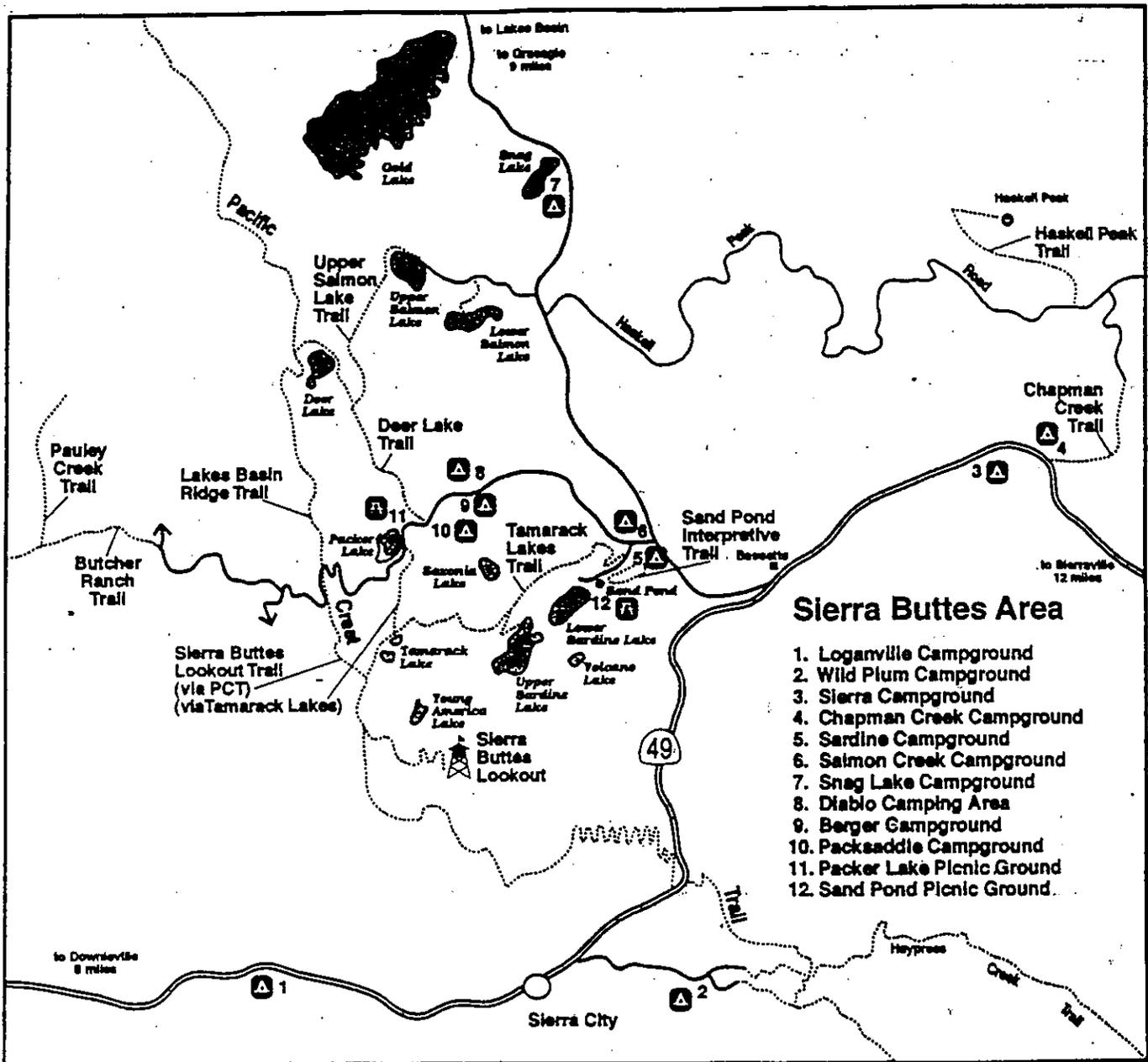
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# Trails - Sierra Buttes Area

Yuba River Ranger District – North

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## Sierra Buttes Area

1. Loganville Campground
2. Wild Plum Campground
3. Sierra Campground
4. Chapman Creek Campground
5. Sardine Campground
6. Salmon Creek Campground
7. Snag Lake Campground
8. Diablo Camping Area
9. Berger Campground
10. Packsaddle Campground
11. Packer Lake Picnic Ground
12. Sand Pond Picnic Ground



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# Butcher Ranch Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

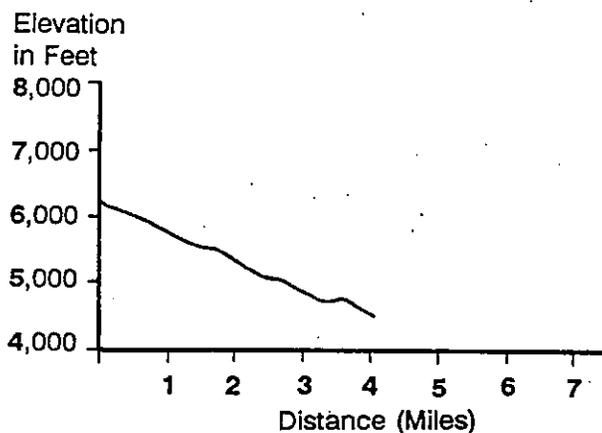
## Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest



### General Information

Mileage: 4 miles, one way  
 Elevation: 6200 to 4320 feet  
 Difficulty: Difficult  
 Use Level: Light  
 Season: June through September  
 Topographic Map: Sierra City 7.5'

### Trail Profile



### Access

Approximately five miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Continue on Gold Lake Highway for one and four-tenths mile, turn left, and cross the bridge over Salmon Creek. Proceed three-tenths mile and turn right onto Packer Lake Road. Continue on Packer Lake Road for two and one-half miles to Packer Lake. At this point the road forks. Take the left fork, Forest Road 93 (Packer Saddle Road). Continue two and one-tenth miles to Packer Saddle and turn left, following the sign reading "Sierra Buttes Lookout 3 and Pauley Creek 5." After one-half mile Forest Road 93 makes a 90 degree turn to the right. Follow this another one-half mile to a sign reading "Butcher Ranch 1, Pauley Creek 4." Take the right fork, proceeding seven-tenths mile to a sign directing you to the trailhead. As indicated, the road is steep and is recommended for four-wheel-drive vehicles only. There is another access road three-tenths mile further. This road is not as steep, but recommended for heavy, high clearance, or four-wheel-drive

vehicles. You are advised to park passenger cars or light trucks here and hike the last mile to the trailhead.

There are several options for hiking in this area. Those who can arrange transportation may wish to hike from Butcher Ranch to the Second or Third Divide trailhead. Second Divide is the longer and more scenic of the two. For those returning to the Butcher Ranch Trailhead, Pauley Creek Trail offers a scenic two-mile detour. Ambitious hikers may wish to follow the Butcher Ranch Trail to the crossing of Pauley Creek and return via the same trail.

### Trail Description

This description will cover the trail to the junction of Second and Third Divide Trails. For the other alternatives, please refer to the applicable descriptions.

Butcher Ranch Trail follows the contour of Butcher Ranch Creek for one and one-half mile to the confluence of Butcher Ranch and Pauley Creeks. The Pauley Creek Trail begins here. Those continuing down the Butcher Ranch Trail will parallel Pauley Creek with its beautiful deep pools. The trail crosses Pauley Creek after another two miles and continues the final half-mile to the junction with Second and Third Divide Trails. This is a particularly scenic trail, especially in July when the wildflowers are in bloom. Fishing in Butcher Ranch Creek is reported good to excellent. Backpackers will find sufficient campsites when exploring this area.

### Note:

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# Haskell Peak Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

## Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest

### General Information

Mileage: 1.5 mile, one way  
Elevation: 7000 to 8107 feet  
Difficulty: Moderate  
Use Level: Light  
Season: June through September  
Topographic Map: Clio 7.5'

sign reading "Haskell Creek Trail 11E02." There is ample parking space on both sides of the road. (If you reach the intersection marked "Chapman Saddle," you have gone one and two-tenths mile too far.)

### Trail Description

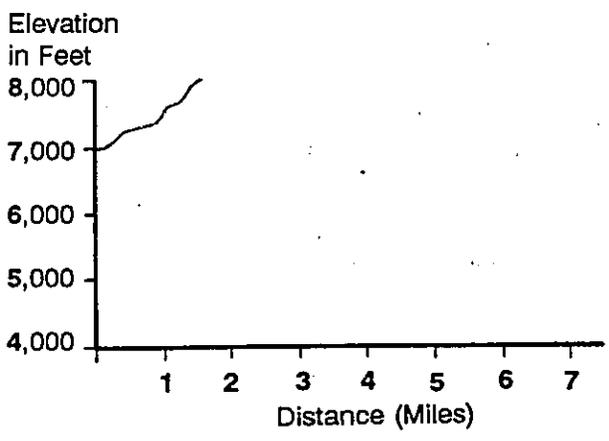
This is a very pleasant trail, climbing moderately through a heavily forested area for the first mile. The trail then flattens and reaches an open area with a view of Haskell Peak. From this point there is a short step climb for the for the final quarter-mile to Haskell Peak.

The view from the top is spectacular. Many feel it surpasses the view seen from the Sierra Buttes. Mount Lassen, Mount Shasta, Mount Rose, Sierra Buttes, and Sierra Valley provide a panoramic view. Haskell Peak also offers rather interesting volcanic rock formations.

### Note:

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.

### Trail Profile



### Access

Approximately five miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Proceed on Gold Lake Highway for three and seven-tenths miles and turn right at the Haskell Peak Road sign. Follow Forest Road 9 for eight and four-tenths miles. (Do not take any of the side roads during the 8.4 miles.) At this point, on your left there is a trailhead

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# Chapman Creek Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

## Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest

### General Information

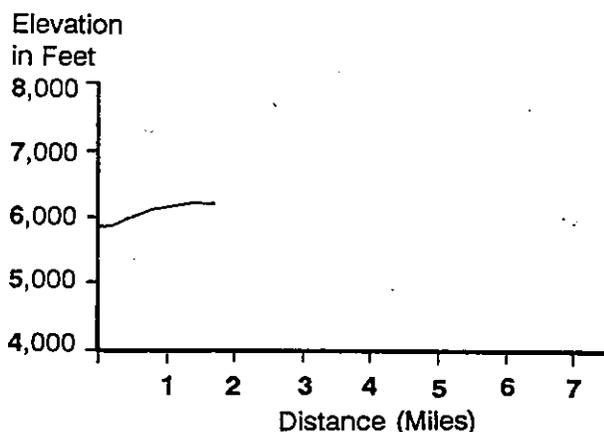
Mileage: 1.5 mile, one way  
 Elevation: 5840 to 6400 feet  
 Difficulty: Easy  
 Use Level: Light  
 Season: June through October  
 Topographic Map: Sierra City 7.5'

campground and is well marked. Parking is available next to the trailhead sign. Please do not park in any of the campsites.

### Trail Description

The trail easily winds up along the contour of Chapman Creek under a heavily forested canopy. Many species of birds, wildflowers, and wildlife may be seen. Along the trail are several ideal sites for picnicking and fishing. Perhaps, on this trail, the most appealing activity of all is to just sit comfortably somewhere along the trailside and enjoy the tranquility of nature.

### Trail Profile



### Note:

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.

### Access

Approximately eight miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn into Chapman Creek Campground. The trailhead is located at the north end of the

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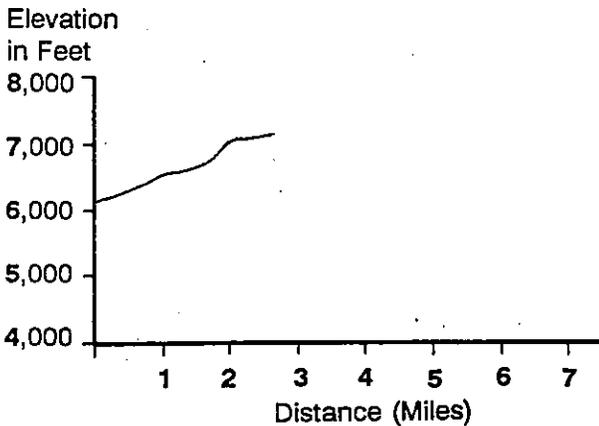
# Deer Lake Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

Yuba River Ranger District - North Tahoe National Forest

## General Information

Mileage: 2.5 miles, one way  
 Elevation: 6080 to 7110 feet  
 Difficulty: More difficult  
 Use Level: Heavy  
 Season: June through October  
 Topographic Map: Sierra City 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

Approximately five miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn left onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Continue for approximately one and four-tenths mile and turn left at the bridge across Salmon Creek. Continue for about three-tenths mile and turn right onto Packer Lake Road. The trail starts approximately two miles up Packer Lake Road on the right. The trailhead is marked with a large sign reading "Deer Lake Trail 12E02." There is ample parking for vehicles and trailers in the Packsaddle camping area just opposite the trailhead.

## Trail Description

As you climb up through the basin you get a panoramic view of the massive Sierra Buttes and the surrounding

timbered slopes. A variety of plants, wildflowers, birds and wildlife abounds. Approximately one and one-half mile from the trailhead you will see a sign reading "Grass Lake 1/4" pointing to your right. The short detour to this small, tranquil lake is recommended. When approached quietly, deer will often be seen grazing on its shore. Deer Lake, another mile along the main trail, is a beautiful lake with an unusually deep blue color and an excellent place for picnicking and fishing. Deer Lake is one of the few bodies of water where the wary eastern brook trout are caught.

Shortly before reaching Deer Lake you will reach a saddle where the trail merges with the Upper Salmon Lake Trail. Hikers may wish to make the three-quarter-mile detour to Horse Lake and Upper Salmon Lake beyond, arranging transportation from the Upper Salmon Lake trailhead.

## Pacific Crest Trail Access

The trail also provides access to the Pacific Crest Trail at the ridge, two miles before reaching Deer Lake. The PCT access route is clearly marked.

## Note:

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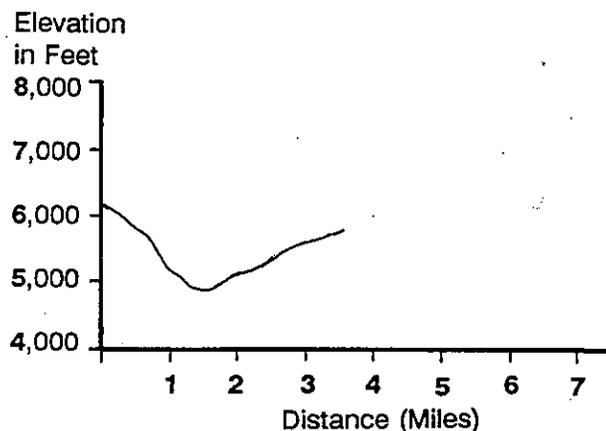
# Pauley Creek Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest

## General Information

Mileage: 3.5 miles, one way  
Elevation: 6200 to 4400 feet  
Difficulty: Difficult  
Use Level: Light  
Season: June through September  
Topographic Map: Downieville 7.5'  
Sierra City 7.5'  
Gold Lake NW 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

Pauley Creek Trail is accessed by following the Third Divide or Butcher Ranch Trail to the junction with the Pauley Creek Trail.

## Trail Description

This description covers a hike starting at the Butcher Ranch Trailhead. (If the hike is started at the Third Divide Trail it is a hike of six and one-half miles one way. For more detail, read the description for the

Second and Third Divide Trails.) The Butcher Ranch Trail follows the contours of Butcher Ranch Creek for approximately one and one-half mile to the junction of Pauley Creek. Despite the rapid change in elevation, this portion of the trail is well worth the hike. The display of spring wildflowers is spectacular.

The Pauley Creek Trail then heads north toward Gold Valley. The bridge across Butcher Ranch Creek has been washed out and care should be used when fording the creek. The trail along Pauley Creek is a moderate but steady climb, offering views of a series of beautiful, deep pools. You pass through an area of magnificent old growth timber, with many ideal places on the creek for picnicking, fishing, and camping.

Two miles after crossing Butcher Ranch Creek the trail ends at a bridge across Pauley Creek. To access Gold Valley from this point, follow the four-wheel-drive road north for another mile. Veer right when the road splits. Gold Valley is a wide-open valley with lush meadows and ideal sites for camping. The area offers a large variety of wildflowers, wildlife, and birds. The quiet hiker is likely to see a bear, deer or coyote.

## Note:

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# PCT Lakes Basin Ridge Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

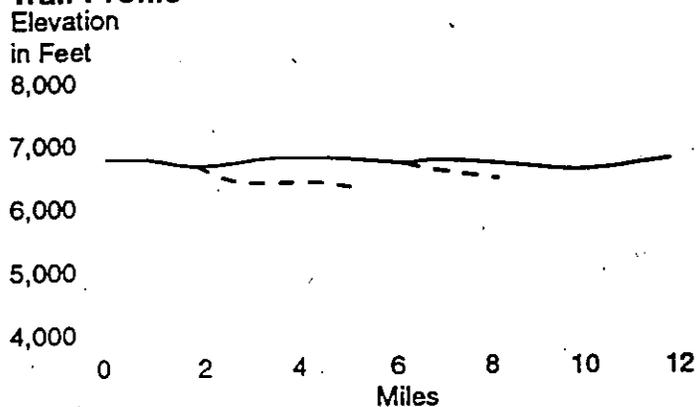
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## General Information

Mileage: Maximum 12 miles to next trailhead  
Elevation: 6680 to 6760 feet  
Difficulty:  
Use Level: Light to moderate  
Season: Late June to October  
Topographic Map: Sierra City 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

Approximately five miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Continue approximately one and four-tenths miles to the bridge crossing Salmon Creek and turn left. Continue for about three-tenths mile and turn right onto Packer Lake Road. Proceed two and one-half miles and turn left onto Forest Road 93. Follow this road one and four-tenths mile to the Packer Saddle intersection. There is ample parking at this intersection.

## Trail Description

From the intersection the Pacific Crest Trail runs north to Canada and south to Mexico. To the north the trail follows a flat ridge top for twelve miles, offering spectacular views of the entire Lakes Basin throughout the hike. It is well worth hiking a portion of this trail if you enjoy panoramic views. Due to its ridge top location, the trail has little elevation change; however, we suggest carrying drinking water.

If transportation can be arranged, there are several opportunities in this area. Hikers may wish to hike down to the Deer Lake Trailhead on Packer Lake Road for a five-mile hike, or to Lakes Basin Campground on Gold Lake Highway for an eight-mile hike. The "A" Tree, located southwest of Plumas Eureka State Park, is the next PCT trailhead. This would be a twelve-mile hike.

## Note:

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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# Sand Pond Interpretive Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

## Yuba River Ranger District - North - Tahoe National Forest

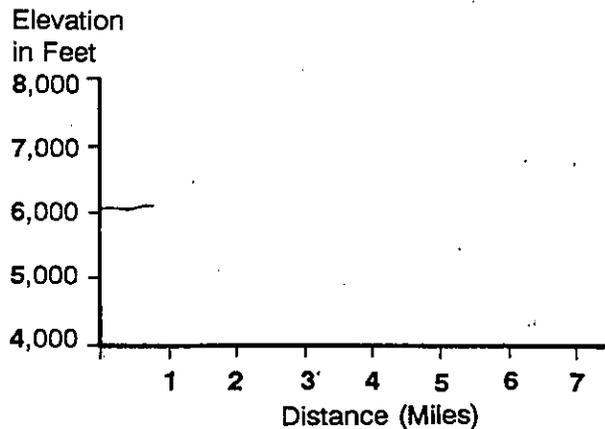


### General Information

Mileage: 0.8 mile  
 Elevation: 6000 to 6000 feet  
 Difficulty:   Easyist  
  Most Difficult  
 Use Level: Moderate  
 Season: June through October  
 Topographic Map: Sierra City 7.5'

history of Sand Pond, or at a point adjacent to the accessible parking area on the east side of the lot. The western route passes through the picnic area between the dressing room and lake. The eastern trailhead route and the remainder of Sand Pond Trail are designed to meet accessibility standards at Challenge Level 2 (facilities are useable by an athletic disabled person without assistance but generally, a person with limited mobility would probably need assistance). Both trailheads serve the same trail.

### Trail Profile



At the southeast end of the lake the trail splits. The right fork will take you around Sand Pond and the left fork is the Sand Pond Interpretive Loop Trail.

This trail provides an interesting route through a forest/marsh transitional zone and discusses some of the elements and relationships that occur here. A variety of wildlife live in this area and its a good spot for viewing birds, insects, and sometimes, beaver. The interpretive signs located along the route will help you explore and enjoy the area.

### Access

On Highway 49, approximately five miles east of Sierra City, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Continue for about one and four-tenths mile, turn left at Salmon Creek bridge, and proceed west toward Sardine Lake for approximately one mile to the Sand Pond Swim Area parking lot. (This trail can also be accessed near Unit 3 of Sardine Lake Campground.)

### Note:

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.

### Trail Description

The trail begins either at the gate on the west (right) side of the parking lot near the sign explaining the

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# Sierra Buttes Lookout via Tamarack Lakes

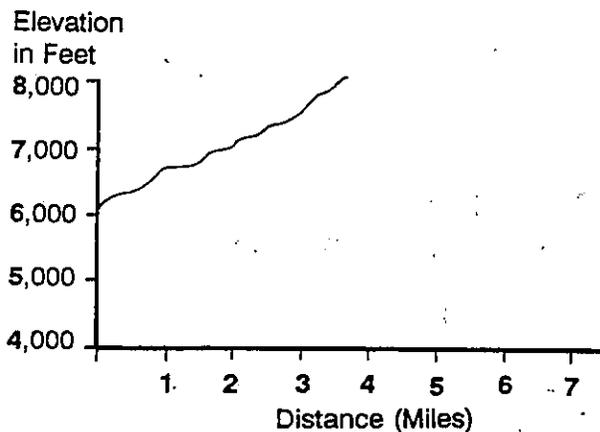
Yuba River Ranger District – North  
Tahoe National Forest

- Sierra Buttes Area

## General Information

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Mileage:         | 3.5 miles, one way   |
| Elevation:       | 6220 to 8587 feet    |
| Difficulty:      | Most difficult       |
| Use Level:       | Heavy                |
| Season:          | June through October |
| Topographic Map: | Sierra City 7.5'     |

## Trail Profile



## Access

Approximately five miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Continue for approximately one and four-tenths mile to the bridge crossing Salmon Creek and turn left. Continue for about three-tenths mile and turn right onto Packer Lake Road. Proceed for two and five-tenths miles and turn left onto Forest Road 93 (Packer Saddle Road). Continue one-tenth mile. On the left side is a large sign reading "Lower and Upper Tamarack Lakes

and Sierra Buttes." The hike begins here. Ample parking is available.

## Trail Description

From the trailhead follow the rough gravel road. In one-quarter mile the gravel road forks. Follow the right fork. After approximately one-half mile you will reach a sign reading "Sardine Lakes and Sand Pond via Trail." This is the Tamarack Connection Trail. Keep to the right and you will see another sign marked "Sierra Buttes L.O." Tamarack Lake will be on your left. Continue another half-mile to a sign directing you to the left. The trail follows this ridge to the Lookout. Both the trail and Lookout offer spectacular views. Mount Lassen, Mount Shasta, and Mount Rose can often be seen. During the summer, volunteers occupy the Sierra Buttes Lookout for wildfire detection.

## Note:

Carry water, none available at lookout.

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# Tamarack Lakes Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

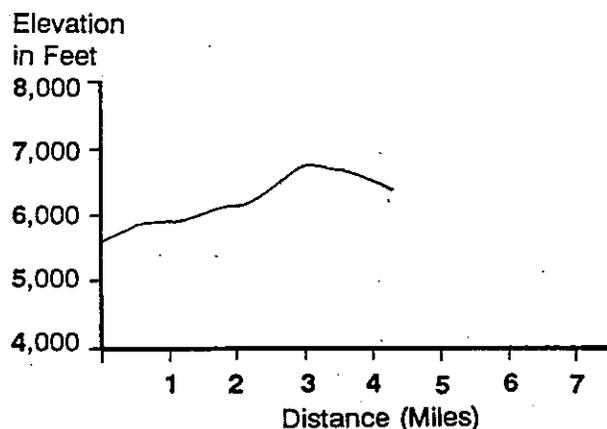
Yuba River Ranger District - North Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 4.2 miles, one way  
Elevation: 5400 to 7050 feet  
Difficulty: Most difficult  
Use Level: Moderate  
Season: June through October  
Topographic Map: Sierra City 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

On Highway 49, approximately five miles east of Sierra City, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassetts Station. Continue for about one and four-tenths mile, turn left at Salmon Creek Bridge, and proceed west toward Sardine Lake for approximately seven-tenths mile where, on the right side of the road, you will see the trailhead sign. There is ample parking on both sides of the road. The other end of the trail is accessed at the trailhead serving the Sierra Buttes (Long) Trail.

## Trail Description

As the trail winds up along the ridge flanking the Lower and Upper Sardine Lakes, it provides a spectacular view of the Sierra Buttes. The trail descends the other side of the ridge to Tamarack Lakes. This trail can be hiked as a loop by continuing down from the Tamarack Lakes to Packer Lake and from there, following the road back to Sardine Lakes Campground. Total length for the loop hike is approximately eight and one-half miles. (For those starting the hike at the Sierra Buttes Trailhead, simply follow the signs to Sardine Lakes.) Due to its southerly exposure and length, we recommend starting your hike in the early morning hours. For those wanting a shorter hike, the Sardine Lake Overlook Trail is reached one and one-half mile beyond this trailhead. This trail provides not only breathtaking views, but a glimpse of the past since it dead-ends at the ore cart tracks of the Young America mine. This mine was in production between 1884 and 1893 with an average monthly "cleanup" of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

## Note:

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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# Sierra Buttes Lookout via PCT - Sierra Buttes Area

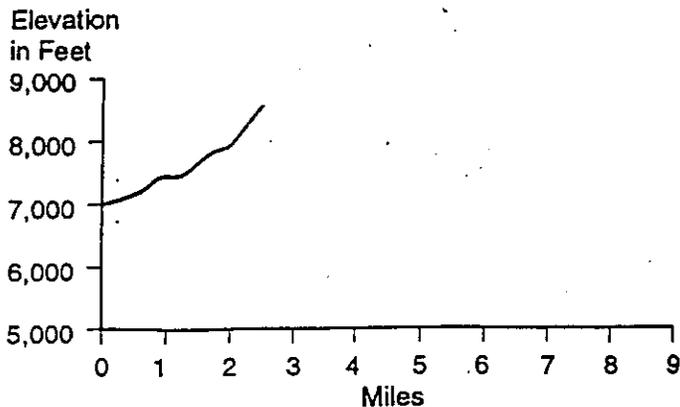
Yuba River Ranger District - North Tahoe National Forest



## General Information

Mileage: 2.5 miles, one way  
Elevation: 7000 to 8587 feet  
Difficulty: More difficult  
Use Level: Heavy  
Season: June through October  
Topographic Map: Sierra City 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 or Motorized equipment is prohibited, this includes motorcycles and bicycles.

## Access

Follow the directions provided for the Sierra Buttes Lookout (Long Trail), then go past the sign reading "Lower and Upper Tamarack Lakes and Sierra Buttes." Continue for one and four-tenths mile to Packer Saddle. At the intersection at the Saddle turn left onto the paved road and continue four-tenths mile to an intersection where the pavement ends. Follow the gravel road to the left for two-

tenths mile. On the left is a gate and signs reading "Pacific Crest Trail, Private Road, Vehicle Only With the Permission of the Land Owner" and "Pacific Crest Trail and Sierra Buttes Lookout." This is the beginning of the trail. There is ample parking space.

## Trail Description

From the Trailhead follow the private road which is well marked with signs reading "Sierra Buttes L.O." and "Pacific Crest Trail." After almost a mile you will reach a ridge top where the road starts to descend. The trail heads south along the ridge. After approximately one-half mile you will see a sign directing you to the left. From here the trail follows the ridge to the lookout.

## Note:

Carry water, none available at lookout.

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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# Upper Salmon Lake Trail - Sierra Buttes Area

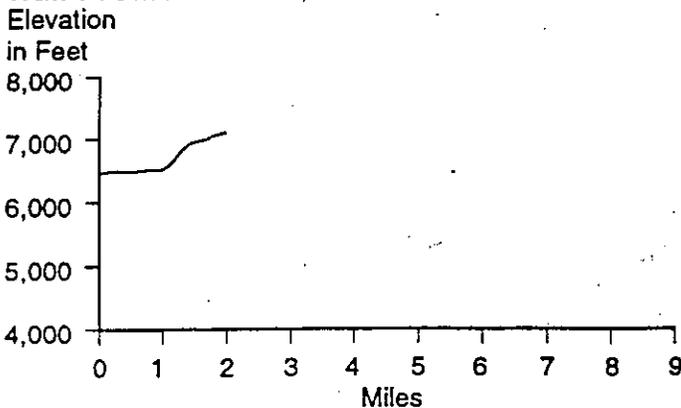
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## General Information

Mileage: 2 miles, one way  
Elevation: 6500 to 7110 feet  
Difficulty: Easy  
Use Level: Moderate  
Season: June through October  
Topographic Map: Gold Lake 7.5'

## Trail Profile



## Access

Approximately five miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49, turn onto Gold Lake Highway at Bassett's Station. Continue on Gold Lake Highway for four miles until you reach the clearly marked Salmon Lake junction. Turn left and proceed to Upper Salmon Lake. The trailhead is on your right. There is limited parking.

## Trail Description

This trail, like the Deer Lake Trail, terminates at Deer Lake. However, this is a slightly shorter hike than the Deer

Lake Trail. The first half mile is relatively flat as it skirts the east side of Upper Salmon Lake and passes through Salmon Lake Lodge. After crossing Horse Lake Creek the trail heads south past Horse Lake and climbs through a series of steep switchbacks. It soon reaches a saddle where it merges with the Deer Lake Trail. This point provides a panoramic view of Horse Lake and Upper Salmon Lake, with a massive glacial moraine in the background. Another two-tenths mile brings you to beautiful Deer Lake, an ideal place to picnic and fish.

## Pacific Crest Trail Access

The trail also provides access to the Pacific Crest Trail at the ridge, two-tenths mile before reaching Deer Lake. The PCT access route is clearly marked. If transportation can be arranged, hikers may wish to return to the Deer Lake Trailhead near Packer Lake. See the description for Deer Lake Trail for details. Salmon Lake Lodge has no restaurant or other facilities for hikers.

## Note:

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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