

# South Warner Wilderness

## Trailheads and Trails



### Modoc National Forest

*Warner Mountain Ranger District*

### Trailheads

**Trailheads** provide a place to park vehicles and trailers while visiting the Wilderness Area. If you are staying overnight in the wilderness please do not park or utilize campsites. If you do stay in the Wilderness overnight and occupy a campsite in a fee area you must pay for the use of the campsite.

#### **The following Trailheads provide access to the South Warner Wilderness:**

**Pepperdine** - One hour from Alturas via County Road 56 and Parker Creek Road.

Parking is limited. There is a staging area with camping facilities and a parking area with horse corrals.

**Pine Creek Basin** - One hour from Alturas via County Road 56 and West Warner Road.

Nearest developed campground is Soup Springs. This is the third most heavily used trailhead.

**Soup Springs** - One hour from Alturas via County Road 56 and West Warner Road.

Developed campground at the trailhead offers 14 sites, tables, fire pits, vault toilets and piped water. Vehicular travel is closed 1/4 mile beyond the campground entrance.

**Mill Creek Falls** - 45 minutes from Alturas via Likely, Jess Valley and West Warner Road. There is a developed campground at the trailhead offering 19 sites, tables, fire pits, vault toilets, piped water and the only paved road to the wilderness boundary. Livestock are not permitted in the campground.

**East Creek** - 1.5 hours from Alturas via Likely, Jess Valley and South Warner Road. Trailhead receives light use. The Forest hopes to begin design and construction of improved trailhead parking, camp units and corrals for horses. In the future East Creek will accommodate equestrian users and Patterson will be for hikers and campers without horses.

**Patterson** - 1.5 hours from Alturas via Likely, Jess Valley and South Warner Road. There is a developed campground at the trailhead offering piped water, charcoal grills and vault toilets.

**Bear Camp Flat** - Two hours from Alturas via Jess Valley, South Warner Road and Cold Springs Road. The three mile long Cold Springs Road is very rocky; a high clearance vehicle is required.

**Emerson** - 1.5 hours from Alturas via Highway 299 to Cedarville and County Road 1 to Eagleville. The last three miles of dirt road is steep and very slippery when wet. There is a camping area at the trailhead with vault toilets but no piped water. Emerson Trailhead underwent reconstruction, relocation of camping, and improved parking in 2005-2006 to protect the stream. The entrance road is very rough and narrow – only high clearance vehicles and y those using small horse trailers should attempt to utilize this area.

### Trails



While traveling in the South Warner Wilderness, please stay on the trails. Cutting across switchbacks and trampling meadows can cause erosion and damage the vegetation. If snow is encountered, travel across the snow and rocks as much as possible. High mountain plants and soils are especially susceptible to damage during thaws.

If traveling a route without trails, groups should spread out rather than walking single file. If travelers with horses are encountered, move off the trail at least 8 feet on the downhill side and let them pass. Horses are easily frightened by backpack equipment.

While traveling, pick up any litter careless travelers may have left. Your example may catch on.

**Summit Trail** - 22.4 miles - Relatively flat, open large meadows to the west. Trail is windswept in bad weather. Beautiful view to the west and occasionally to the east. Water is available but not as abundant as Owl Creek Trail. Eagle Pass to Patterson Lake not much water. Pepperdine to Patterson Lake takes 4-5 hours.

**Owl Creek Trail** - 15.23 miles - Rugged broken topography intersects trail. Much up and down terrain. Plenty of water. Trail goes from basin to basin. Trail runs down over the east side of the rim, so most views are eastward. Linderman Lake, Owl Creek Basin, Raider Basin and Eagle Basin are points of interest. Access from Emerson, Summit or Squaw Peak Trails.

**Squaw Peak Trail** - 5.86 miles - Short cut from Pepperdine to Owl Creek Trail without going to Patterson Lake. Trail generally goes downhill into Cottonwood Creek. Easy trail to hike. Pepperdine to Owl Creek is 4 hours.

**Upper Cottonwood Trail** - 1 mile - Connects Summit and Owl Creek Trails. Many switchbacks, fairly steep in spots. Good view of Devil's Knob from trail. Lower portion is abandoned towards Forest Boundary.

**Mill Creek Trail** - 8.36 miles - Fairly flat along Mill Creek until close to Poison Flat. Water and campsites available along trail. Fishing is good. Easy access from Soup Springs which has a corral and hitching post.

**Pine Creek Basin Trail** - 4.64 miles - Uphill from entry point, runs along the creek at the bottom then opens into a big basin about halfway up. A few small ponds along the trail. Fishing is fair. Entry point to Patterson Lake takes 4-5 hours.

**Slide Creek Trail** - 1.85 miles - Connects Mill Creek to Summit Trail. Uphill. Plenty of water and camping. Not used much.

**Poison Flat Trail** - 5.91 miles - Uphill and ties into East Creek Trail. Very steep to Summit Trail. Located in timber and edge of meadows. Not much water or campsites near the top.

**East Creek Trail** - 5.58 miles - Downhill from entry point. Heavy timber, lots of water, not many campsites. Good fishing in East Creek.

Due to the Blue Fire of 2001 many of the burned snags are unstable and will continue to fall throughout the hiking season. Grass and brush have grown re-grown and are encroaching on the trail making the trail difficult to find. Excessive erosion is occurring on the trail due to the increased runoff after the fire.

**North Emerson Trail** - 4.37 miles - Steep with lots of switchbacks. Timbered trail except near top by North Emerson Lake. Fishing poor in North Emerson Lake. Limited campsites near trail, access to Natural Bridge. Ties in with Owl Creek and Summit Trails. Campground to North Emerson Lake takes 3 hours.

**South Emerson Trail** - 1.5 miles - Heavy timber throughout trail length. Access to South Emerson Lake, but trail is not defined. Fairly flat, slightly downhill to the southeast.

**Bear Camp Trail** - 3.63 miles - Upper portion from Bear Camp downward is narrow and flat. Receives heavy soil erosion onto trail. Most of trail is in timber. Only trail from which Natural Bridge can be seen. Very little water or camping are available along trail.

## You Can Help The Trails

Trails are a key part of many outdoor recreation experiences, but are often taken for granted. You can help keep trails open and safe by reporting trail conditions to the one of the offices below. You can also pick up any litter along your way in order to make it beautiful for the next traveler. Another way to help is to become involved with the Adopt-a-Trail program, in which interested clubs or organizations take on volunteer maintenance responsibility for a portion of a trail. Contact a local Forest Service office to become involved.

### For More Information:

Visit our Web Site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/modoc/>

or call, visit or write:

Supervisor's Office  
225 W. 8th Street  
Alturas, CA 96101  
(530) 233-5811

Warner Mountain Ranger District  
385 Wallace St.  
Cedarville, CA 96104  
(530) 279-6116

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