

McCloud River Trail

McCloud Ranger Station - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



Directions:

From McCloud travel 5 miles southeast along Highway 89. You will see a Forest Service sign on the left-hand side of highway that reads Fowlers and Lower Falls. Turn right onto the McCloud River Loop Road (40N44) at this sign. Continue along this road through the intersection and stay right at the fork. (The left will take you to the campground). Soon you will come to the Lower Falls Day Use and parking area. The trailhead (TH) for the McCloud River Trail starts at the staircase next to the Lower Falls overlook.

Trail Information:

At the trailhead you will find a day use area with bear proof trash bins, restrooms, water spigots, picnic tables, and upright BBQ grills to prepare a meal before or after what you will find to be a wonderful day hike.

The non-motorized multi-user trail follows the McCloud River for approximately 15 miles beginning at Lower Falls until its terminus at Algoma Campground. You may also join the trail near the very North Eastern campsite in the popular Fowler's Campground. It is rated as an 'Easy' hike, but there is one place along the trail that could prove difficult to some hikers and cyclists, which is the short section of trail from Middle Falls to the Middle Falls overlook. This is a short switchback section of trail and involves a little bit of an uphill climb, including stairs.

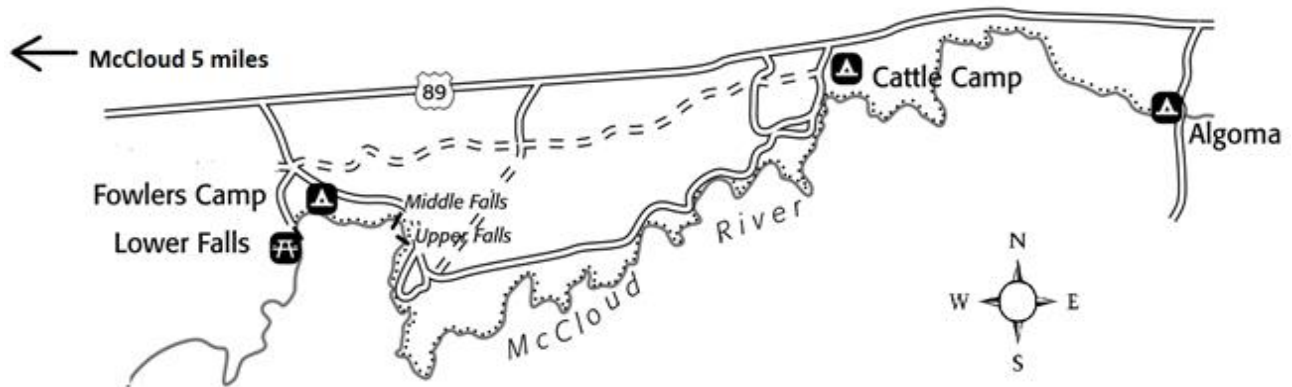
What is there to see or do?

The Lower Falls is stocked by the California Department Fish and Wildlife during fishing season and many of the McCloud's tributaries are the home of Redband Trout. The 15' tall Lower falls is also an incredibly fun place to take a dip. Be forewarned, the temperature of the pool stays in the low 50's, which some find quite cold. About a half mile downstream you will find Pine Tree Hollow, which is a kayak put-in. From there you can navigate the river to the McCloud Reservoir. Be aware of trees that may have fallen across the river.

Middle Falls, the most picturesque of the three falls is an easy 1.3 mile hike up stream from Lower Falls and like the others presents wonderful opportunities for swimming, fishing, photography, and wildlife viewing. It is over 50 feet high and 100 feet across. From here you must hike up the northern hillside along a short switchback/staircase trail section to get to the Middle Falls overlook and the continuation of the McCloud River Trail.

Upper Falls is approximately .5 miles further upstream from Middle Falls. From the viewing platform 90 ft. above the river you may see the water jet out of the natural rock channel into the pool below. The climb down is steep and very difficult and not recommended-

The trail continues for another 13.2 miles meandering next to the river where one may see deer, bear, various small furbearing mammals, and birds of all types including the Bald Eagle, Osprey, King Fisher, ducks, quail and heron. Three day use sites along the trail you may find of interest include: Lakin Dam, Camp 4, and Cattle Camp Swimming Hole. Lakin Dam offers handicap access as do all of our sites, and has a restroom. There is a viewing deck right on the river where one may birdwatch, fish, or just relax. Camp 4 is a Group Campsite by reservation only, however upstream a little ways there is a Day Use Area along a very nice section of river. Cattle Camp Swimming Hole and Day Use Area is one of our most popular recreation sites. The large pool and small beach area are perfect for a day in the sun. Please do not camp overnight in any of the Day Use areas.



Additional Information:

Camping: There is no camping allowed along the McCloud River Loop or the McCloud River Trail unless you are in a designated Camping area. Do not camp in Day Use Only Areas.

Campfires: Campfires along the McCloud River Loop or the McCloud River trail are only allowed in campgrounds, Day Use, or signed Fire Safe Areas.

Mountain Bikes and horses: Are allowed on the multi-user McCloud River trail, please remember to be courteous and allow room to pass.

Pets: Allowed, but must be on a leash.

Please remember to clean up any waste or trash.

Distance From:

- McCloud to River Loop Road: 5 miles
- Lower Falls to Middle Falls: 1.3 miles
- Middle Falls to Upper Falls: .5 miles
- Upper Falls to Camp 4: 3.5 miles
- Camp 4 to Cattle Camp: 5.2 miles
- Cattle Camp to Algoma: 4.7 miles

For further information:

Contact the McCloud Ranger District
2019 Forest Road McCloud Ca.
or by calling 530-964-2184

Office Hours:

8:00 - 4:30 Mon-Fri
Closed on Holidays