

Alpine Lakes of the Trinity Divide

Mt. Shasta & McCloud Ranger Stations - Shasta-Trinity National Forest



The Trinity Divide is a rugged chunk of mountainous country that separates the Trinity River on the West and the Sacramento River on the East. China Peak lies at the northern end and Shasta Bally on the south.

It is an area of rugged beauty, cut by tumbling streams and high red-rock ridges and peaks. Dozens of alpine lakes nestle in the folds and most of them are accessible by car and some by 4 wheel drive vehicles. A few of the lakes are accessible by foot or by horseback. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) winds a circuitous route through the northern end of the Divide, climbing from Castle Crags on Interstate 5 and eventually crossing Highway 3 at Scott Mountain Summit. A fair number of the lakes along the Divide are private. Please respect the rights of private property owners.

West Parks Lake Basin

Access is via Parks Creek Road 17 from Stewart Springs Road. About 4½ miles up Road 17, take road 41N73 to the right. At West Parks Lakes Creek, the bridge has been removed. Cross the creek and continue on the road to Road 41N73A. From the end of this road, a faint steep trail goes to the lower lake.

Lower West Parks Lake. Section 21, T41N, R6W. Elevation 7,250'. 2 acres. 12 feet deep. The lower two lakes are stocked with eastern brook trout and provide fair fishing for 6" - 12" trout. Ownership - Public Land.

Middle West Parks Lake. Section 20, T41N, R6W. Elevation 7,400'. 2½ acres. 22 feet deep. Ownership - Public Land.

Upper West Parks Creek Lake. Section 20, T41N, R6W. Elevation 7,800'. 1 acre. 12 feet deep. Usually barren. Ownership - Public Land.

Caldwell Lakes Basin

Access is via Parks Creek Road 17 from Stewart Springs Road. About 5½ miles up road 17, take road 41N74 to the right. From the end of this road, Caldwell Lakes Trail 6W01 goes to the lower lake.

Lower Caldwell Lake. Section 29, T41N, R6W. Elevation 6,800'. 2 acres. 12 feet deep. This lake is small but provides fair fishing for 6" - 10" brook trout. Some work

has been done to provide a live inlet. Ownership - Public Land.

Middle Caldwell Lake. Section 29, T41N, R6W. Elevation 7,100'. 1½ acres. 8 feet deep. This lake provides good fishing for 6" - 10" brook trout. Ownership - Public Land.

Upper Caldwell Lake. Section 29, T41N, R6W. Elevation 7,100'. 2 acres. 13 feet deep. Upper and Middle Caldwell Lakes are very close to one another and it is almost impossible to tell where one ends and the other begins. Good fishing here for small brook trout. Ownership - Public Land.

Deadfall Lakes Basin

Access is via Parks Creek Road 17 from Stewart Springs Road. About 9½ miles up Road 17 is the Parks Creek Trailhead of the Pacific Crest Trail. The lake basin is about 3 miles east and south on the PCT. An alternative approach is via the Deadfall Trail from the Deadfall Meadows Trailhead another 1½ miles farther on Road 17 (at the switchback).

Lower Deadfall Lake. Section 13, T40N, R6W. Elevation 7,150'. 5 acres. 25 feet deep. Fat brook trout to 11 inches are fairly abundant. Pan sized rainbows are abundant in Deadfall Creek below the lake. Closed to off road vehicles. Ownership - Private (SPI).

Middle Deadfall Lake. Section 24, T40N, R6W. Elevation 7,300'. 25 acres. 40 feet deep. This is the second largest lake in the Trinity Divide. Has a good population of brookies and the fishing is good. Brown trout have also been caught. Fairly open for fly fishermen. Closed to off road vehicles. Ownership - Public Land.

Upper Deadfall Lake. Section 24, T40N, R6W. Elevation 7,800'. 2½ acres. 15 feet deep. This small lake lies very close to timberline and is generally bordered by grassy meadow. Good natural reproduction for brook trout and fair fishing for 6" - 10" fish. Closed to off road vehicles. Ownership - Public Land.

Bluff Lake

Section 9, T40N, R6W. Elevation 6,300'. 4 acres. 8 feet deep. Access is via Parks Creek Road 17 from Stewart Springs Road. About 13 miles up Road 17 take road 40N98 to the right, after about one mile turn left on road 40N98A. At the end of the road at the meadow a faint trail goes toward the lake. Do not drive through the meadow.

Please park and walk to the lake. Fat brook trout to 8" are present. The fishing is poor to fair. Ownership - Private (SPI).

Bull Lake

Section 19, T40N, R6W. Elevation 6,530'. 6 acres. 20 feet deep. Access is via Parks Creek Road 17 from Stewart Springs Road. At about 14½ miles up Road 17 the Sisson-Callahan Trail crosses the road. Bull Lake is located 2½ miles to the west on the Sisson-Callahan Trail between the Trinity River and Kangaroo Lake. As an alternative route, at about 13½ miles up Road 17 take road 40N01Y to the right. This is a very rough road and will end about three quarters of a mile from Bull lake. From the end of this road, a faint trail connects to the Sisson-Callahan trail approximately one quarter mile below Bull Lake. Normally the fishing is good for brook trout to 12". Ownership - Private (SPI).

Slide Lake

Section 29, T40N, R6W. Elevation 5,400'. 2½ acres. 21 feet deep. Access is via Parks Creek Road 17 from Stewart Springs Road. About 15½ miles up Road 17, take road 40N04Y to the right. About one mile up road 40N04Y the road crosses the outlet from the lake. Fat brook trout 6" to 12" long are usually present. Ownership - Private.

Lost Lake

Section 35, T40N, R7W. Elevation 5,600'. ½ acre. 9' deep. Access is via Highway 3 from Trinity Center. About 2½ miles north on Highway 3 from the junction with the Parks Creek Road 17, take road 39N04 to the right. About 5 miles up road 39N04, the road branches into two roads. The lake is located between these roads. Populated with 6" - 8" brook trout. Ownership - Private (SPI).

Masterson Meadow Lake

Section 33, T40N, R7W. Elevation 6,200'. 1½ acres. 5 feet deep. This pretty lake is situated on the east slope of Scott Mountain, It is shallow and subject to seasonal winter kill but usually has a fair population of 6" - 10" brookies. It can be reached by following the Pacific Crest Trail east from Highway 3 at Scott Mountain Summit.

Mount Eddy Lakes

Little Crater Lake. Section 6, T40N, R5W. Elevation 7,580'. There is no driveable public right of way to this lake. The only access is cross country from Mt. Eddy. 20 acres. Since this lake is situated in a deep rocky crater, it is not visible from a distance. No outlet. Eastern brook trout to 12" are fairly abundant and the fishing is good to excellent. Ownership - Public Land.

Dobkins Lake. Section 6, T40N, R5W. Elevation 6,750'. 3½ acres. There is no driveable public right of way to this lake. A good trout lake, although food is not as abundant as in some lakes. Rainbow, eastern brook and brown trout are present and appear to do well. Fishing is fair for 6" -

12" trout. The outlet provides some good stream fishing. Ownership - Public Land.

Durney Lake. Section 6 & 7, T40N, R5W. Elevation 7,000'. 3½ acres, 15 feet deep. There is no drivable public right of way to this lake. Permanent inlet and outlet streams provide natural spawning conditions. Eastern brook trout to 10". Shores all open and ideal for fly fishing. About a 20 minute hike on trail 5W03 from Dobkins lake. Ownership - 2 acres Public Land, 1½ acres private.

Chipmunk Lake

Section 12, T40N, R6W. Elevation 6,400'. Access is via South Fork Road 26 from the W.A. Barr Road. About 2½ miles up Road 26, just past the concrete bridge, take road 41N53 to the right. About ½ mile up this road turn to the left on road 40N64 and continue on for about ½ mile past the wooden bridge across the Middle Fork of the Sacramento River. Turn left on road 40N10Y. This road goes directly to the Lake but is not maintained. Generally, the crossings of the Middle Fork are impassable for vehicles. It is advised that you walk into the lake from the first crossing... about 2 miles. It is not presently stocked. Ownership - Public Land.

Toad Lake

Section 36, T40N, R6W. Elevation 6,400'. 23½ acres. 40' deep. One of the most productive and popular lakes in the area. Access is via South Fork Road 26 from the W.A. Barr Road. About 2½ miles up Road 26, just past the concrete bridge, take road 41N53 to the right. About ¼ mile up this road turn to the left on road 40N64 and continue on this road until you reach the Toad Lake trailhead. The last ½ mile of this road is very rocky and is not recommended for anything other than high clearance vehicles. From the trailhead, follow the old jeep trail (no vehicles allowed) to the lake. Eastern brook trout, rainbow trout and brown trout are present. Ownership - Public Land. No motors allowed on the lake.

Porcupine Lake

Sections 1 & 2, T39N, R6W. Elevation 7,250'. 8½ acres. 50' deep. This lake is set well down in a crater like depression. The surface never rises high enough to overflow. The shore is generally a jumble of granite rocks. Some good sized rainbow trout have been caught here along with eastern brook trout. Access is by the trail around the north shore of Toad Lake and then up the hill to the junction with the Pacific Crest Trail at the divide. Take the PCT south to the junction with an unmarked trail, which goes directly to the lake. This is about a one mile hike from Toad Lake. Ownership - Public Land.

Lakes of the Castle Crag Area

Castle Lake. Sections 19 & 24, T39N, R4-5W. Elevation 5,400'. 47 acres. 120' deep. Castle Lake is the largest, deepest and most attractive lake in the entire area. It is

situated 11 miles from the town of Mt. Shasta and is accessible by Castle lake Road, which is paved. A large number of people visit the lake each year for fishing, swimming, camping and picnicking. A Forest Service Campground is located ¼ mile below the lake. Rainbow and brook trout are abundant and provide good angling, especially during May and June. Both species average 8" - 12". The Department of Fish and Game has conducted trout management experiments at Castle lake since 1938. The facts obtained from these experiments have been utilized in the management of other high mountain lakes throughout the state. Better angling and lower management costs have been the result. Ownership - 44 acres Public Land, 3 acres private.

Little Castle Lake. Section 19, T39N, R4W. Elevation 5,600'. 2 acres. 9 feet deep. This lake is inside the Castle Crags Wilderness, one mile south of Castle Lake on the Castle Lake Trail 4W02. This trail is very steep and rocky and has no water sources along it. Fair fishing for 6" - 8" brook trout. Ownership - Private (Crane Mills).

Heart Lake. Section 24, T39N, R4W. Elevation 6,050'. ¾ acre. 11' deep. This little lake is located far up in a pocket in the cliff at the south end of Castle Lake and is just inside the Castle Crags Wilderness boundary. Use the Castle Lake Trail 4W02 to the divide between Castle and Little Castle Lakes. A faint trail along the west side of a small frog pond leads to Heart Lake. This lake contains a few eastern brook trout and there is fair fishing for trout up to 6". Ownership - Public Land.

Gray Rock Lakes Basin

Access is via South Fork Road 26 from the W.A. Barr Road. About 6 miles up Road 26, turn left across the wooden bridge on road 40N43. Go about 500 feet and turn right onto Road 39N45. Go about 1½ miles and turn left onto Road 39N44. These roads are very rocky and are not suitable for low clearance vehicles. The Gray Rock Lake Trailhead is at the end of Road 39N44. Gray Rock lake Trail 5W07 angles uphill to the basin occupied by the lakes. With the exception of Scott lake, all of these lakes are located within the Castle Crags Wilderness.

Gray Rock Lake. Section 27, T39N, R5W. Elevation 5,950'. 11 acres. 20' deep. Rainbow and eastern brook trout are present. Fishing is fair to poor for trout to 12". Ownership - Public Land.

Upper Gray Rock Lake. Section 27, T39N, R5W. Elevation 6,300'. 4½ acres. 20' deep. Reached by a steep use trail from the east end of Gray Rock Lake. Fishing ranges from very poor to good; far better in the spring and fall than in mid summer. Eastern brook to 8". Ownership - Public Land.

Timber Lake. Section 27, T39N, R5W. Elevation 6,000'. 2 acres. 15' deep. A particularly beautiful little lake with fair to good fishing for 6" brookies. Reached by a use trail from the east end of Gray Rock lake. Ownership - Public Land.

Scott Lake. Section 27, T39N, R5W. Elevation 6,200'. 2½ acres. 10' deep. Fair rainbow and eastern brook trout lake. It is surrounded by timber and brush and hard to fish. Scott Lake is at the head of Scott Camp Creek and while it is not part of the Gray Rock Lake Basin, it is a one mile hike over the ridge from Timber Lake. Ownership - Public Land.

Cliff Lakes Basin

Access is via South Fork Road 26 from W.A. Barr Road. About 8 miles up Toad 26 take Road 39N05Y to the left. This road is very rocky and is not suitable for low clearance vehicles. Road 39N0Y crosses the outlet of Cedar Lake, goes by Lower Cliff Lake and ends at Cliff Lake. At Cliff Lake the road splits, with one road going to the right. This is a private road; please do not enter or drive up it. The road to the left is also on private land. Please respect the rights of the land owner and park carefully.

Cedar Lake. Section 25, T39N, R6W. Elevation 5,700'. 6 acres. 10' deep. Aquatic vegetation is gradually filling in and eventually the lake will become a bog. Presently it is good fishing for brook trout to 10" but you almost need a boat to fish it. Ownership - Public Land.

Lower Cliff Lake. Section 31, T39N, R5-6W. Elevation 5,700'. 3 acres. 11 feet deep. This lake has a continual flow from the outlet of Cliff Lake so its water level is partly maintained throughout the summer. Small brook trout are in the lake but it's pretty swampy and most people bypass it in favor of fishing Cliff Lake. Ownership - Public Land.

Cliff Lake. Sections 31 & 36, T39N, R5-6W. Elevation 5,800'. 22 acres. 90' deep. This is one of the most beautiful lakes in this area. Large trout find this an ideal home and feed heavily on planted fingerlings. There are Rainbow, eastern brook and brown trout in the lake and it is fair fishing for fish up to 12". Occasionally a few larger fish are caught. Ownership - 6 acres Public Land, 16 acres private.

Upper Cliff Lake. Section 36, T39N, R6W. elevation 6,350'. 2½ acres. 11 feet deep. This lake sits in a small pocket high on the back wall of Cliff lake. It is reached by a short but steep climb around the northwest side of Cliff lake. Good fishing for brookies up to 8". The lake has suffered winter kill in the past. Ownership - 1½ acres Public Land, 1 acre private. When hiking to Upper Cliff, please respect the rights of the private property owners whose land you cross.

Terrace Lake. Section 31, T39N, R5W. Elevation 6,200'. 3½ acres. 37' deep. Water flows out of Terrace into Cliff Lake at all times of the year. It is a short, steep climb up from Cliff to Terrace to the east. There are eastern brook and rainbow trout present to 8". Fishing is poor to fair. Ownership - Public Land.

Gumboot Lakes Basin

Access is via South Fork Road 26 from W.A. Barr Road. About 9 miles up Road 26 take Road 40N37 to the left which goes directly to Gumboot Lake. The access road is paved all the way.

Gumboot Lake. Section 26, T39N, R6W. Elevation 6,050'. 7 acres. 15' deep. Typical meadow type lake, not very beautiful but good fishing and easily accessible. In 1955, a small dam was constructed at the outlet by sportsmen's groups to increase the area of the lake. Stocked with rainbow trout but brookies are caught occasionally. Fly fishing is very good at times. No motors are allowed on the lake, but it is easily fished from the shore. Ownership - Public Land.

Upper Gumboot Lake. Section 26, T39N, R6W. Elevation 6,350'. 3½ acres. 8' deep. This lake is only about 300 yards away from Gumboot Lake and is an easy walk. It is so shallow that it often the subject of winter kill. It is occasionally planted with brook trout. Ownership - Public Land.

Mumbo Lakes Basin

About 19 miles from the town of Mt. Shasta. Access is via South Fork Road 26 from W.A. Barr Road. About 13½ miles up Road 26 take the unmarked spur road to the left. This is at the first creek crossing down from the Gumboot-Mumbo summit. This ¼ mile road parallels the outlet of Mumbo Lake and should not be attempted in a low clearance vehicle.

Mumbo Lake. Sections 35 & 36, T39N, R6W. Elevation 6,100'. 5½ acres. 16' deep. Fishing is fair for brown, rainbow and brook trout to 12". Ownership - Public Land.

Upper Mumbo Lake. Section 36, T39N, R6W. Elevation 6,100'. This is a very shallow lake located a few hundred yards east of Mumbo Lake. Ownership - Public Land.

Seven Lakes Basin

About 20 miles by road and trail from the town of Mt. Shasta. Access is via South Fork Road 26 from the W. A. Barr Road. One route in is via the Pacific Crest Trail which crosses the road at about 12 miles up Road 26 (Gumboot Trailhead). Park here and walk south on the PCT 2¼ miles to the divide between Seven Lakes and Mumbo Basins. At the divide take the Seven Lakes Trail (an old jeep road) to the south. Alternative access to the area is by continuing on Road 26 about 2½ miles more to Road 38N61. Turn left on 38N61 and continue about a mile to where an unmarked private road goes to the left. This road goes into the head of Seven Lakes Basin just above Helen lake. It is not recommended for any vehicles as it is extremely steep and eroded and becomes very loose in the summer. It is about a mile walk from this point into the lakes. Besides the lakes mentioned below, there are three other small and very shallow lakes that occasionally offer poor to fair brookie fishing.

Helen Lake. Section 1, T38N, R6W. Elevation 6,700'. 2½ acres. 15' deep. This is a small lake but productive for eastern brook trout. It is open enough around the shore to make it good for fly fishing. Ownership - Private.

Upper Seven Lake. Section 1, T38N, R6W. Elevation 6,300'. 2 acres. 10' deep. This small lake lies at the upper end of the Seven Lakes Basin, surrounded by rather dense brush and trees. It contains a good population of eastern brook trout and the fishing is fair. Ownership - Private.

Lower Seven Lake. Section 6, T38N, R5W. Elevation 6,200'. 2 acres. 10' deep. A good eastern brook trout producer. Ownership - Public Land.

Echo Lake. Section 5 & 6, T38N, R5W. Elevation 5,900'. 13½ acres. 70' deep. This is the largest lake in the Seven Lakes Basin. Eastern brook, rainbow and brown trout have been caught and some very large fish have been seen. Ownership - Private.

Tamarack and Twin Lakes Basin

This area lies about 20 miles from the town of Castella. Access is via Castle Creek Road 25 from Castle Crags State Park. Stay on Road 25 past Horse Heaven Meadows for approximately 1¼ miles to the point where Forest Road 38N17 takes off to the left. Take Road 38N17 for about 2¾ miles to a road junction. At the junction you will take the road that turns to the left. In ¼ mile you will come to another junction of roads. Take the one to the right (not advisable for low clearance vehicles) and it will take you to Tamarack Lake.

Take Road 38N17 about 3 miles (past the junction with the road that takes you to Tamarack Lake about ¼ mile). Here the road splits. You will take the left hand fork which takes you to the meadows below Lower Twin lake. Do not drive across the meadows. Park and walk the short distance to the Lower Lake.

Access to Grey Rock Lake is gained by taking Road 38N17 about ½ mile up from this junction and then turning left onto Flume Ridge Jeep Trail 4W03. Take 4W03 about 3 miles east to a saddle between Grey Rock Lake and Flume Creek. The Grey Rock Trail 5W27 takes off to the north and switchbacks downhill to the lake. This trail is very faint and is over very rocky ground.

Big Tamarack Lake. Section 32, T38N, R5W. Elevation 5,900'. 21 acres. 16' deep. A popular and comparatively large lake. It is a good producer and stocked with rainbows. Brook trout are also present. It is not unusual to catch both species to 12" long. Ownership - Public Land north half, Private south half.

Little Tamarack Lake. Section 32, T38N, R5W. Elevation 5,900'. 2 acres. 9' deep. It is a very good brook trout lake surrounded by low brush and trees. It is only a few minutes walk on the Trinity Divide Trail 5W12 around the lower end of Big Tamarack Lake. If you continue on Trail 5W12 it will tie into the Twin Lakes Trail 5W30 in about 1 mile. Ownership - Public Land.

Grey Rock Lake. Section 27, T38N, R5W. Elevation 5,500'. 4½ acres. 12' deep. This is a good producer of fat eastern brook trout to 9". Ownership - Private.

Lower Twin Lake. Section 32, T38N, R5W. Elevation 5,800'. 8½ acres. 14' deep. A very good brook trout lake. It is surrounded by trees and brush and is somewhat difficult to fish. Ownership - Public Land.

Upper Twin Lake. Section 32, T38N, R5W. Elevation 5,800'. 8½ acres. 40' deep. This deep lake is a good producer of brook trout. Fishing is fair to good depending on the season and angling pressure. Ownership - Public Land half, Private half.

Highland Lake - Devil's Lake Complex

There are several ways to get to these lakes but the easiest is to leave Interstate 5 at Castle Crags State park and drive west on road 25. Nine miles of driving brings you to Horse Heaven Meadows. Approximately 1¼ of a mile beyond Horse Heaven Meadows you will turn left onto Forest Road 38N17 which takes you past the roads to Twin and Tamarack Lakes. 2¼ miles past the Twin Lakes turn off you will come to a junction of roads. The road that goes up the east side of Highland Creek is the one that will take you to Highland Lakes. Park at the end of the road and walk uphill to the lakes.

Continuing on 38N17 from its crossing of Highland Creek, the road travels generally west for about 2½ miles where splits (one road going north and the other going south. You will turn to the south and skirt Whiskey Bill Peak. This road follows Pond Lily Creek all the way to a junction

with another road about ½ mile below Pond Lily Lake. The left hand fork will take you to Pond Lily Lake.

The right hand fork below Pond Lily Lake will take you to Grouse Lake, approximately 3¼ miles away. The road ends at Grouse lake. To get to Devil's lake from Grouse Lake you will have to walk up and over the ridge to the south. The going is rough but Devil's Lake is only ¼ mile away.

Devil's Lake. Section 16, T37N, R6W. Elevation 6,100'. 2½ acres. 15' deep. This is a small and shallow lake that is prone to winter kill. Historically it maintained good populations of brook trout but recently it has not been productive. Ownership - Public Land.

Grouse Lake. Section 15, T38N, R6W. Elevation 5,700'. 3 acres. 15' deep. Fishing is poor to fair for a small population of brook trout. SPI owns the lake and has logged down to the shoreline which has encouraged brush to grow to the waters edge making fishing difficult except at the landing near the outlet.

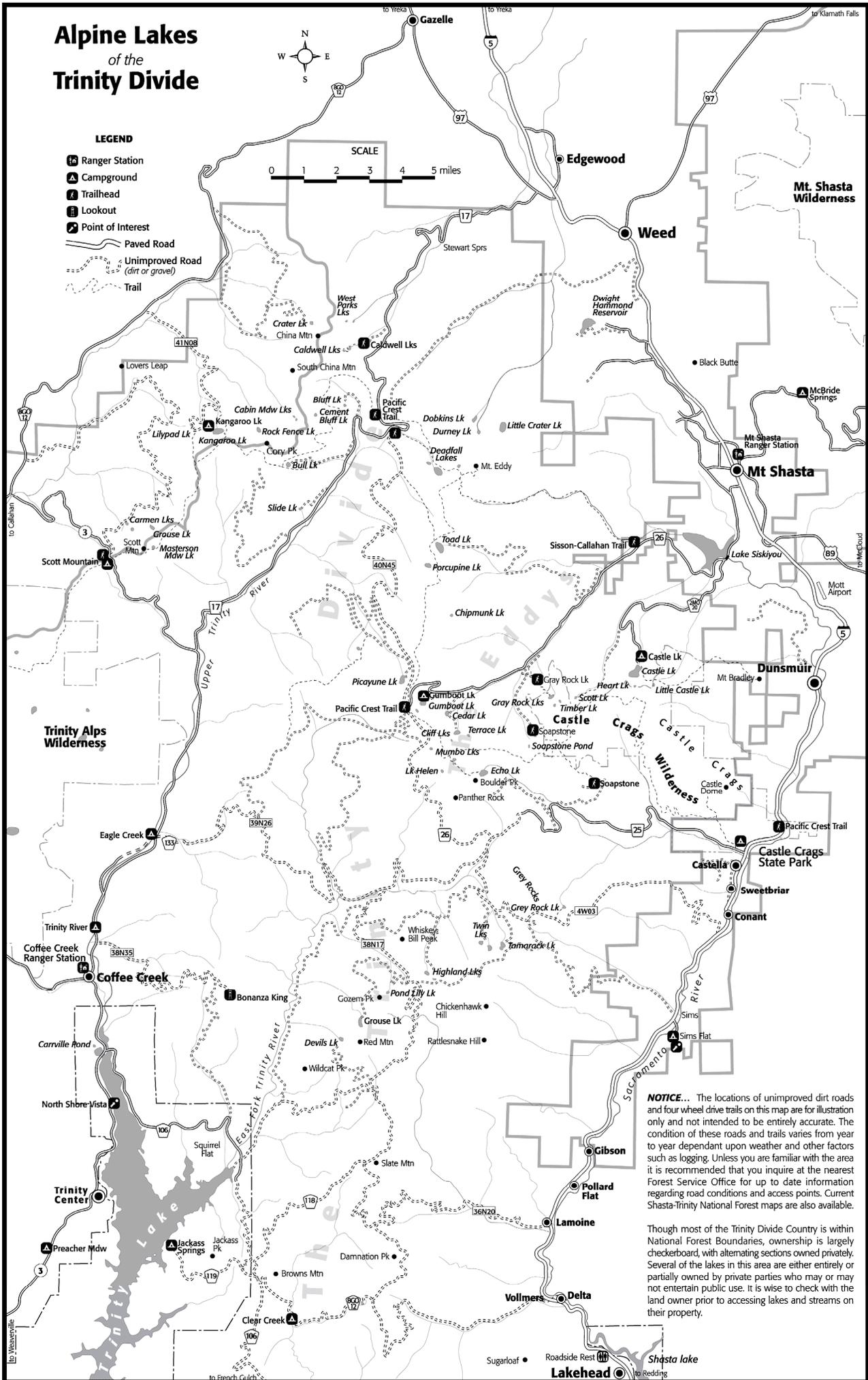
Highland Lake. Section 1, T37N, R6W. Elevation 5,700'. 7 acres. 15 feet deep. There is one good sized lake with three small, shallow ponds nearby. The large lake is excellent brook trout water and easy to fish with a fly. During the summer the fish usually congregate in the center, the deepest part of the lake. Ownership- Private.

Pond Lily Lake. Section 11, T37N, R6W. Elevation 5,800'. 2 acres. 10' deep. An attractive little lake well stocked with brook trout. Surrounded by thick timber, brush and meadows. Fishing ranges from poor to fair. Ownership - Private.

Alpine Lakes of the Trinity Divide

LEGEND

- Ranger Station
- Campground
- Trailhead
- Lookout
- Point of Interest
- Paved Road
- Unimproved Road (dirt or gravel)
- Trail



NOTICE... The locations of unimproved dirt roads and four wheel drive trails on this map are for illustration only and not intended to be entirely accurate. The condition of these roads and trails varies from year to year dependant upon weather and other factors such as logging. Unless you are familiar with the area it is recommended that you inquire at the nearest Forest Service Office for up to date information regarding road conditions and access points. Current Shasta-Trinity National Forest maps are also available.

Though most of the Trinity Divide Country is within National Forest Boundaries, ownership is largely checkerboard, with alternating sections owned privately. Several of the lakes in this area are either entirely or partially owned by private parties who may or may not entertain public use. It is wise to check with the land owner prior to accessing lakes and streams on their property.