

Popular Trail Routes

Mt. Pinos Ranger District

Los Padres National Forest



Piedra Blanca - Gene Marshall National Recreation Trail - 22W03

This trail starts at the Piedra Blanca National Recreation Trail trailhead at Reyes Creek Campground. The trail travels up the Reyes Creek drainage through the Sespe Wilderness and then southward towards the Sespe Creek on the Ojai Ranger District. There are two small primitive camps located on the Mt. Pinos Ranger District portion of this trail:

- **Upper Reyes Primitive Camp** (4,700 ft./ 1,433 m.)
Located approximately three miles from the Reyes Creek Campground. Water is available most years from the creek; purify before drinking. Nearest supplies at Camp Scheideck, adjacent to Reyes Creek Campground.
- **Bear Trap Primitive Camp** (5,000 ft./1,524 m.)
Located approximately five miles from Reyes Creek Campground. Water is available from the creek; purify before drinking. Nearest supplies are at Camp Scheideck.

Cedar Creek/ Fishbowls Loop - 22W10 to 21W05

This is a loop opportunity in the Sespe Wilderness. Two trailheads exist for this loop. The first trailhead is located right off of the Grade Valley Road (FS 7N03) approximately five miles south of Lockwood Valley Road and the second is one mile further along the Thorn Meadows Road (FS7N03C). Cedar Creek and Fishbowls primitive camps are along this trail route.

- **Cedar Creek Primitive Camp** (5,050 ft./1,540 m.)
Located approximately two miles west on trail (22W10) from Thorn Meadows Road, or eight miles from Grade Valley Road via Fishbowls Trail by foot or horseback. Cedar Creek has become one of the most popular primitive camps on the district owing to its easy accessibility and pleasant surroundings. Deriving its name from the stately California Incense Cedars growing in the area, Cedar Creek has numerous Jeffrey Pines, Sugar Pine, Big Cone Douglas Fir and hardwoods, which add to the overall beauty of the site. Water is available from the creek most years; purify before drinking. Nearest supplies are in Lake of the Woods, approximately 20 miles from the trailhead.

- **Fishbowls Primitive Camp** (5,200 ft./1,585 m.)
Located deep in the Sespe Wilderness, this scenic camp derives its name from the bowl shaped pools approximately 300 yards from the camp, which have been known to contain trout. Trees in the area include Incense Cedar and a few hardwoods. Travel is six miles from Grade Valley or five miles from the trailhead on Thorn Meadows road. Water is available from the creek most years. (Purify before drinking). Nearest supplies are in Lake of the Woods.

Thorn Point Trail - 21W07

The Thorn Point Trail is approximately three miles long. It starts at Thorn Meadows Primitive Camp and terminates at the Thorn Point Lookout. Elevation ranges from 5,000 feet (1,524 m.) to 6,935 feet (2,114 m.). Thorn Meadows Camp has three stoves and can be used for an overnight starting point for a trail trip. Four-wheel drive is strongly advised for gaining access to this camp. Water is available from the creek near the campground most years; purify before drinking. There is no water available on this trail so stock up. The majority of the trail is a steep uphill climb. For horse enthusiasts, Thorn Meadows Camp offers a public horse corral a few hundred yards down the road from the campground.

North Fork Trail - 22W02

This trail is six miles in length and extends between the end of Boy Scout Road off of Lockwood Valley Road and the Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail on Sawmill Mt. Park at the gate at Boy Scout Road and walk approximately two miles to the Chumash wilderness boundary. The trail climbs steadily to the Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail through Jeffrey Pine forest. There is no water on this trail. Lily Meadows and Sheep are primitive camps along this trail.

- **Lilly Meadows Primitive Camp** (6,500 ft./1982 m.) is approximately four miles from the Boy Scout Road gate.
- **Sheep Primitive Camp** (8,00 ft. /2,500m.)
Sheep Camp is located under a stand of Jeffrey Pines and can be reached from Mt. Pinos by taking the Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail at the Condor Observation Point for three miles then the North Fork trail for half a

mile or seven miles from the Boy Scout Road gate, or from Cerro Noroeste (Mt. Abel) by taking Tumamait - Mt. Pinos Trail for 3.5 miles. Hikers should be in good condition before taking this hike because of the high elevation and steep pitches in the trail. There is a spring box at the camp that has water most years; purify before drinking.

Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail - 21W03

This 5-mile trail traverses the ridgeline between Mt. Pinos and Cerro Noroeste (Mt. Abel). There is no water along the trail. North Fork and San Emigdio Mesa springs trails have intersections on this trail.

Little Mutau Trail - 20W10

This trail travels through the Sespe Wilderness with termini at the top of Alamo Mt. and the Johnston Ridge/Mutau Trails trailhead in Grade Valley out of Lockwood. This trail is 10 miles long and has a great deal of elevation gain and loss. Little Mutau primitive camp is about half way on the trail.

- **Little Mutau Primitive Camp** (5,250 ft./1,600 m.)
Located four miles east of Mutau Flat. This primitive camp is situated in a cool canyon bottom with shade provided by alders, cottonwoods and pinon pines. There is no water readily available.

Buck Creek Trail - 18W01

This trail has termini at Hardluck Campground and Sewart Mountain. The trail travels through steep canyons. There are dense stands of Big Cone, Douglas Fir and rugged peaks that await the visitor. Water is available from the creek most of the year; purify before drinking. Buck Creek primitive camp is on the trail. Nearest supplies are at Gorman, approximately 16 miles from camp.

- **Buck Creek Primitive Camp** (4,250 ft./1296 m.)
Located about six miles from Hardluck campground on the Buck Creek Trail or 5 miles from Sewart Mt. This camp is a nice stop for visitors traveling in the rugged backcountry. Spectacular views of the surrounding environment are awarded the hardy outdoor enthusiast.

San Emigdio Mesa Spring Trail - 22W21

This trail intersects Tumamait-Mt. Pinos Trail 1 mile

from the Cerro Noroeste (MT. Abel) trailhead. The trail descends through Jeffery Pine, Pinion Pine and chaparral down Mesa Canyon to the San Emigdio Mesa. The Mesa Springs Camp is near the end of the trail. Return trip is steep.

- **Mesa Spring Primitive Camp** (6,000 ft./1,829 m.)
This primitive camp is found under Pinon Pines. Water is available at a spring near the camp; purify before drinking. Nearest supplies are in Pine Mountain Club approximately 10 miles from camp.

Ranch Nuevo Trail - 24W03

This trail begins at Rancho Nuevo primitive camp. The trail travels through the Dick Smith Wilderness approximately two miles up through the magnificent rock landscape of Rancho Nuevo Canyon to the junction of Deal Trail (24W04) at Deal Canyon. The trail continues up canyon for four miles to Upper Rancho primitive camp. Water is available most years; purify before drinking.

Deal Trail - 24W04 and Deal Connector Trail - 24W01

Both Deal and the Deal Connector trails start off of state Highway 33. The Deal Connector is further south on Highway 33 and cuts one mile off of the Deal trail. Deal travels westward up and over the ridgeline which is also the Dick Smith Wilderness boundary, down through Deal Canyon and ends at the Rancho Nuevo Trail (locally known as Deal Junction). Deal is a strenuous trail and water is not available most years.

Boulder Canyon Trail - 23W03

This trail is located behind the Ozena Fire Station just off of State Highway 33 near the junction of Lockwood Valley road. The trail travels southward up to the ridgeline of Pine Mountain with a short Spur trail to McGuire Spring.

McGill Trail - 21W02

This is a 3.5-mile trail on popular Mt. Pinos. Termini are McGill Campground and a trailhead on Mt. Pinos Highway.

Exploration Trail - 21W04

The Exploration Trail is a half-mile long accessible trail in McGill Campground. The terminus of the trail offers a great view of Cuddy Valley.

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