

Wilderness Trail Report - Doe Flat, Buck Lake, and Devil's Punchbowl Trails

Name of the person who filled out the form: Molly Travis

Date (s) of visit: 8/7/14 - 8/8/14

Trail Name: Doe Flat Trail to Buck Lake & Devil's Punchbowl
Starting & ending at Doe Flat TH

Were there trail obstructions? No*

Were these obstructions navigable by stock animals? N/A

* The only obstructions were fallen trees (no more than 6" in diameter) around the perimeter of Buck Lake and one fallen tree about 12" in diameter on the trail leading up to Buck Lake. The later is navigable by stock but the ones surrounding the lake are not.

Describe grazing areas/grasses growing.

There are no grazing areas along this trail, at the trailhead, or at Buck Lake & Devil's Punchbowl.

Was there water access? Yes

Describe the nature of the water access. (Streams, lakes, spigots, dried up water sources, etc.)

There is water at Buck Lake and Devil's Punchbowl (lakes). There used to be 2-3 stream crossings with flowing water between Buck Lake and the Devil's Punchbowl junction but there is only one now with cold, slow-flowing water. The other ones have dried up. There is also one stream after the switchbacks and before the rock field leading to the punchbowl and after that there is no water until the actual lake. There is no water at the trailhead.

Campsite locations:

- **Campsite quality**—surface comfort (flat or sloping, smooth or bumpy, dry or wet, dirt, rock, or sand, etc.), scenic views from site, shaded or open, proximity to water, ease of access to water, water quantity and quality, annoyances (bugs, cattle, cow pies, etc.)
- **Campsite quantity**—number and size of sites, number of people/tents that can fit in each site

There are more established campsites at the trailhead (number and quality unknown) with a pit toilet.

Buck Lake has 4 campsites around the perimeter of the lake. Two are near the outlet of the lake and right off the trail leading to the lake. They are flat and smooth with mainly dirt. The lower one has a nice view of the lake. This site could hold between 2-3 tents and around 3-5 people. The upper site could hold 2-3 tents and around 3-5 people. Continuing to the right, there is a smaller campsite right next to the water that is mainly dirt but a bit rockier. It could hold maybe 1-2 tents and 2-3 people. Continuing further, there is a final campsite that is also right next to the water. It is mainly dirt but rockier the farther back. It is a good place for hammocks. It could hold 2-3 tents, and around 3-4 people.

There are two separate camping locations between Buck Lake and the junction to Devils Punchbowl. They are within a mile past Buck Lake. Both areas are rocky but have good flat spots and are not very close to water (the only water is the stream crossing right after Buck Lake). They are very open campsites and not in the trees. They could each fit 3-5 tents and 6-10 people.

At Devils Punchbowl, there are 6-10 camping areas and most can only fit one tent, two at max. They are flat and sandy/dirty and some are closer to the water than others. All have easy access to the lake. One campsite is in the trees on the left side of the outlet creek. All are very scenic!

List wildlife seen and general location of sighting (mosquitos, bears, snakes, etc.)

I saw deer, mosquitos, chipmunks, and wasps throughout the whole trail.

Trail conditions:

How easy was the trail to follow? (Unlabeled forks, absent cairns, indistinct tread, etc.)

The trail is very easy to follow and there are labeled forks. Some visitors complained of having an outdated map that still showed the old trail along the creek and had to change their itinerary because of it.

Were there trail signs? (At forks, at trailhead)

All trail signs are easy to follow, even the one at Buck Lake that has directions scratched into it (not an official sign). There is no wilderness boundary sign.

How navigable were creek crossings?

There are no creek crossings. The one stream crossing is very easy.

Were there any burned over areas?

There are no burned over areas.

Did you see any wildflowers or poison oak?

There is no poison oak, and most wildflowers have died back and are past their prime. There is ripening Oregon grape.