



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands

Sierra National Forest

BALD MOUNTAIN SUMMIT

High Sierra Ranger District

In the mood for a challenging hike that offers a good workout and wonderful vistas? Then the Bald Mountain Summit Trail to the old Forest Service fire lookout is calling you. This trail begins along the Dinkey Creek Road, 4.3 miles west from the Dinkey Creek Visitor Center and 8 miles from the town of Shaver Lake. Upon reaching the road summit, you will notice a turnout on the north side for vehicle parking. Just east of the parking area will be a “Trail” sign marking the start of the trail.

This trail climbs steeply up the west face of Bald Mountain Summit ridge and ties in with the Bald Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) route. Once on the route, you can choose to follow it 1.3 miles to the top of Bald Mountain and explore the site of the old Forest Service lookout, or wander off in any desired direction that you choose.

You do not even have to hike as far as the OHV route to enjoy nice views of Dinkey Creek. With a good steady climb, one can reach the upper rock formations in 15 to 25 minutes. On a clear day from these rocks, you can see the peaks of Sequoia National Park and Spanish Mountain to the south, and to the west you have views of the Central Valley and Coastal Range.

Hikers choosing to continue on up to the top of Bald Mountain will be rewarded with breathtaking views of Shaver Lake, Blue Canyon, Pine Flat Reservoir, the upper drainage of Dinkey Creek, Three Sisters, Nelson Mountain, Eagle Peak, and more of the Sequoia Park Wilderness. The average round trip time to the old lookout including an hour’s stay at the top is four hours (3.5 miles).

The trail is marked by rock ducts (piles of rock along the trail path). Watch for these ducts to keep on course and note where the trail intersects with the off-highway vehicle route, for this is the only trail off the ridge. The hike will take you through various stands of

pine and fir, wildflowers, ferns, brush, and a kaleidoscopic realm of granite rock formations.

Before taking on this challenging hike, make sure you are prepared. Sturdy hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, trail snacks, and plenty of water are needed for the minimum four hour hike. Remember that anytime for the year weather at these elevations can change within minutes, so a sweater, windbreaker, or jacket are also recommended. Binoculars, camera and a good topographical also can enhance the hike. It is wise to leave your itinerary and an expected return time with someone. If you should become lost, stop and wait for assistance.

Some sections of this trail are steep and slippery, so watch your footing. To be safe, set your own pace and take adequate rest stops. If you have any questions about the trail, stop by the High Sierra Ranger District in Prather or the Dinkey Visitor Center (summer only) as we will be happy to assist you. Enjoy your hike!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

High Sierra Ranger District
P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
559-855-5355

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