



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

SPANISH OHV ROUTE

High Sierra Ranger District

DIFFICULTY RATING: More Difficult.
Pickup trucks are not recommended. To wilderness boundary: 5.0 miles, 4 hours driving time. Wilderness permits are required for overnight stays in wilderness areas. This is an easy route for experienced drivers and a challenge for beginning drivers. This route encompasses loose dirt, some granite, a few rocks, and a little uphill. This is not recommended for van type 4WD vehicles or full sized pickups due to some tight maneuvering between trees about 3/4 of a mile before the route ends at the wilderness boundary.

CAMPING TIPS

There is no camping within 100 feet of lakes, streams, trails, and meadows. Campfire permits are free and available at your local Forest Service office. A campfire permit is required for wood fires, charcoal fires or portable stoves.

DIRECTIONS TO ROUTE

To locate the beginning of the route follow the McKinley Grove Road east from Dinkey Creek for approximately 17 miles to Wishon Dam. About 2.5 miles beyond the dam, turn right at the sign to Crown Valley trailhead and Spanish OHV Route, continuing for 1.5 miles. The route is on the left a short distance beyond Rancheria Creek.

THE ROUTE

Approaching a small tributary of Rancheria Creek, a small meadow is noticeable. Tread lightly and stay of the designated route to keep the meadow free of unsightly wheel tracks. Across the creek, driving challenges begin with tight turns around both standing and down trees.

The route shows its challenging side as it becomes steep and rocky. Next will be a very steep ascent with an outward slope. At the top, the route turns left and levels off. A succession of very steep and rocky uphill climb follows. In some spots, the grade reaches 50%. At the top of Long Meadow Ridge, the route makes a sharp left turn and crosses a short stretch of level ground. Park at the turn and walk 50 yards west to view the North Fork of the Kings River. Black Rock Reservoir and the San Joaquin Valley can be seen on a clear day.

The road continues, winding past small picturesque meadows making its way to the ridge between Statum and Garlic Meadows. There are several campsites with fantastic views of the Rancheria Creek watershed and prominent features such as Finger Rock and Crown Peak. The treeless peaks in the John Muir Wilderness form the skyline. The Spanish OHV Route ends in a saddle at the boundary of the John Muir Wilderness. No motorized vehicles or mechanical devices are allowed beyond this point. Park vehicles here and hike to the Spanish Lakes or explore Garlic Meadow.

Take the steep decent to the northeast to reach Little Spanish Lake, one-quarter mile beyond the steep rocky stretch. Big Spanish Lake is a half mile further. A wilderness permit is required for overnight stays at the lakes. Enjoy the scenery and use TREAD LIGHTLY skills. "Leave No Trace" by packing out everything you pack in.



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Pacific Southwest Region
www.fs.usda.gov/sierra

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

Dinkey Creek Visitor Center
559-841-3404 (Summer Only)

All Are Welcome

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